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A

MEMOIR

OF

DANIEL WHEELER,

WITH AN ACCOUNT

OF HIS

GOSPEL LABOURS

IN THE

ISLANDS OF THE PACIFIC.

PHILADELPHIA:
PUBLISHED BY THE
ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS FOR THE DIFFUSION OF RELIGIOUS AND USEFUL KNOWLEDGE,
109 North Tenth Street
1859.

PREFACE.

THE volume now offered is an abridgment of the memoirs of the life and gospel labours of Daniel Wheeler, edited by his son, and published in London in 1842. In the preface to that edition, it is stated that it was a matter which D. Wheeler had much at heart, to leave on record some narrative of his life, no doubt believing that in it might be traced many instances of Divine mercy and interposition which could not but be instructive and strengthening to others. He commenced but did not complete the work; but, from the period at which his autobiography abruptly terminates, nothing has been allowed a place which could not be stated with entire confidence.

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MEMOIRS

OF THE

LIFE OF DANIEL WHEELER.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY D. WHEELER — ENTERS THE MERCHANT SERVICE — THEN THE ROYAL NAVY — IS PAID OFF — ENTERS THE ARMY.

"HAVING frequently derived much valuable instruction from the perusal of narratives of those who have long since exchanged an earthly for a heavenly inheritance, the thought has at times occurred to me, that a short memoir of my own life, however evil, might, under the Divine blessing, be made, in like manner, useful to others. But, perhaps from the humiliating conviction that days, as without number, have been miserably devoted to madness and folly, in forgetfulness of a long-suffering Lord God, the guilty mind would gladly hide the remembrance of these for ever in oblivion, and pass over them in silent abhorrence; or, conscious that there yet remains a stubborn and unsubdued residue of human corruptions, a sense of unworthiness and unfitness may have hitherto operated to retard the

undertaking; lest the creature should in any degree be exalted, to whom shame only, with blushing and confusion of face, must ever belong.

Whatever may thus far have impeded any attempt of the kind, I am induced, not as a matter of choice, but as a duty, now in the sixty-first year of my age, to commence the work, humbly imploring the assistance of Him who 'knoweth the thoughts and intents of the heart,' to enable me, as far as it may be carried forward, to accomplish it to His own praise and glory, as a faithful testimony for the advancement of our holy Redeemer's kingdom in the hearts of my fellow-creatures.

I was born in London, the 27th day of the Eleventh month, 1771: my parents, William and Sarah Wheeler, were members of the established religion of the country, and strict adherents to all its rites and ceremonies. They had a large family of children, whose minds they endeavoured to imbue at an early age with the fear of their great Creator — taking them regularly to attend the performance of public worship, and also reading the Holy Scriptures in the family at home; portions of which I well remember reading aloud when very young. I have but a very indistinct recollection of my father's person, not being quite seven years old when he died, leaving five children, of whom I was the youngest. My mother was endowed with a large capacity, combining great sweetness with firmness of mind. Of the loss of such a parent, I was very sensible, being about twelve years old at the time."

Through the misconduct of his eldest brother, to whom the care of their father's business had been intrusted, it became necessary that the family should be broken up, and they were soon widely separated. For a short time, Daniel remained to assist the person who had purchased the stock, and succeeded his brother in the business, which was the wine trade. Of this occupation he says: "I should not feel easy without noticing, in this place, for the benefit of others, the manifold temptations to which young people are necessarily exposed, when brought up to trades similar to that in which I was then employed. From the nature of these trades, there is scarcely a probability of escape from insensibly falling into habits (much more readily acquired than shaken off) of tasting different kinds of wine and strong liquors, which too often lead the way to intemperance. The injurious effects of these practices, and of such exposure, having been felt and witnessed by myself, make me the more desirous to warn others against the business."

A merchant in London having procured for him a situation on board a vessel engaged in the Portuguese trade, it was accepted by D. Wheeler. Two voyages were made in this ship, and a knowledge of navigation acquired. On his return from the second voyage, he found that an intimate friend of his departed mother had procured for him the station of midshipman in a ship of war. This change, however specious in appearance at the time, was but an introduction to a school which is not often equalled,

and but seldom surpassed, for vice and immorality. In reference to this and to the time afterwards spent in the army, Daniel Wheeler writes these affecting and instructive lines: "Reader, if the power to choose were mine, to draw an impenetrable shade over the next several years would best suit my natural inclination; it would save me many pangs, and I should at once bring thee to the time when I could tell thee with delight 'what the Lord hath done for my soul.' — But, with these years omitted, the long suffering and unutterable goodness of my gracious God and Saviour would be eclipsed, His tender mercies would be ungratefully robbed of their lustre, the riches of His grace obscured and its glory hidden. I must, therefore, like the regular and progressive gradations of nature, proceed from those days of childhood and youth at which I had arrived — would that I could say, of innocency! — but ah! at this distance of time, I can painfully trace the springings up of the evil root, which failed not at an early age to bring forth fruit of those things 'whereof I am now ashamed;' having sorrowfully found, from woful experience, that their 'end is death.' Canst thou, then, wonder at the shrinking of human nature from the task of thus reopening a dark picture of guilt? — such as, I pray, it may never be thy lot to know, or to have to render an account of, as thy own. Though now in full abhorrence of the same, through the mercy of God in Christ Jesus, I have a hope that my sins, though many, will be forgiven, and for ever blotted out as

'a thick cloud;' and that my tribulated soul will yet be cleansed by the 'precious blood of sprinkling that speaketh better things than that of Abel.' This only 'cried from the ground' for vengeance against the offender; whilst the blood of Him who cried, 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do,' cleanseth from all sin, and was shed for many, for the remission of sins; yea, for all that repent, believe, and obey the Gospel, in the secret of their hearts revealed, which is 'the power of God unto salvation.' But although ready to shudder at the prospect before me, I feel strengthened to proceed, so far as I may rightly do, from a belief that the work in which I am now engaged is prompted in mercy, and will not be in vain, peradventure to myself, if not to another. For, if permitted to finish it, I shall have had another opportunity afforded, even at this late hour, for repentance—a truly great and blessed privilege to every sinner. And how much more shall I owe unto my Lord, if, in the course of a diligent search, it should please the 'faithful witness' in condescension to discover to the view of my mind sins which, through the subtle workings of the grand adversary, have been partly hidden and imperfectly repented of."

Having joined the ship at Plymouth, it was not long before they left the harbour and sailed for the Isle of Man station. "This was a stormy and dangerous passage, in which, through Divine mercy, we were favoured to witness a marvellous preservation from shipwreck; the dawn of day just discovering

to us in time the small island of Grasholm, towards which the vessel was drifting in a direct course, and already within a short distance of the breakers. We were lying to, at the time, under two or three storm-sails; but there happily being room to wear clear of the rocky crags, the danger was soon left behind."

After a cruise of fourteen months, they returned to Plymouth; and, whilst in this harbour, through the interest of an admiral of considerable estate and influence in the neighbourhood, with whom in former days some of the family had been personally acquainted, Daniel Wheeler relates: "I was in a short time received on board a ship-of-the-line, then bearing the flag of a Rear-Admiral. This advance, under such patronage, was considered to hold out a promising aspect; but whilst it seemed to pave the way to promotion, it opened at once a door to an extensive range of acquaintance with officers on board, whose circumstances in life enabled them to deviate with less difficulty than myself from the path of virtue; whose example I endeavoured to follow, until nothing but the want of means prevented my going still greater lengths than the worst of them. Whilst in this ship, when about sixteen years of age, having been unwell, and probably led to reflect a little on that account, I was made sensible of a Divine visitation being extended to me, disclosing with indubitable clearness the vanity and emptiness of every earthly station, tarnishing the pride and glory of this perishing world in my sight; and which, though little understood and less regarded at

the moment, has since, at different periods of my chequered life, been brought to my remembrance by Him 'who declareth unto man His thoughts — who maketh the morning darkness, and treadeth upon the high places of the earth — the Lord, the Lord of hosts is His name.' When this occurred, although then entered into the bond of iniquity, I had not launched so fully into its dreadful abyss as was afterwards most lamentably the case; and from what I have since witnessed, in unutterable mercy, of the strength and power of redeeming love, a belief is induced, that if this warning voice, then sounding in the secret of my sinful heart, 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock,' had been hearkened unto, and waited upon, my footsteps, even mine, would have been conducted from the horrible pit to which they were fast verging.

I continued nearly six years in the navy; but were all the changes from ship to ship enumerated which took place during that time, and the great variety of incidents which befell me, they would swell this narrative far beyond the limits intended. Whilst, however, I am desirous of avoiding the error of gratifying self, or merely amusing others, I beg to be preserved from a greater, in omitting anything tending in the slightest degree to make known the aboundings of that wondrous goodness and mercy which followed me all along through an unparalleled course of presumptuous and unrestrained liberty. It may therefore suffice for me to say, that, notwithstanding the many and great dangers I was exposed

to, and the hardships and sufferings I had to endure, through all which I was preserved and sustained in a manner at this day inconceivable to myself; yet none of these things were sufficient to soften the rocky heart, or bring me to a sense of my lost condition; for whether on board or on shore, in harbour or at sea, or in whatever country, if I could meet with associates prone like myself to evil, I was always ready to hasten with them to it, either in word or in deed.

An expected war with a foreign power had occasioned an unusually large fleet to collect at Spithead; but, after a time, the differences being adjusted, the ships were dispersed to their respective posts, and that to which I belonged was paid off. She was commissioned the next day as a guard-ship, and I have no doubt that I might have resumed my station as one of her mates, had I made application; for, with all my private failings, as a poor sinful creature, my public character had not suffered in any of the ships in which I had served, but rather the contrary; for my pride and presumption had often prompted me, in moments of extreme danger, in a daring manner to take the most hazardous post, even when duty did not require it, or warrant the risk. But instead of applying to be reinstated in my former berth, I remained on shore in pursuit of sinful gratifications, with increased avidity; and, going up to London, so much time elapsed before my return, that I never afterwards attempted to procure a situation in the ship I had left, or in any other. In this way I left

the service altogether; and would I could say, that I left the service of sin at the same time. I now found the disadvantage of not having been regularly brought up to a trade: for want of this knowledge I was alike unfit for all employment.

Towards the latter part of the time of my being in the navy, it was suggested to my lost and bewildered mind, by the subtle destroyer of men, that nothing short of making away with myself could extricate me from the difficulties by which I was surrounded, and shelter me from shame and disgrace; and the method of its accomplishment was at seasons hinted at. But — blessed be the name of the Lord God of heaven and earth for ever! — His invisible arm, of merciful interposition, preserved me from this dreadful snare; and in the greatness of His love and strength He hath at this distant period put it into the heart of His unworthy creature to record His mighty acts, to His praise and to His glory, with humble and reverend thankfulness. Greatly do I desire, that if this relation should ever fall into the hands of any poor sinners, servants of the cruel taskmaster, as was then my lot, that such may be hereby strengthened and encouraged to look unto the Lord their God for help, even though they may be plunged into the very gulf of despair; for 'His compassions fail not' — they are new every morning; His tender mercies are over all His works; and He will give power to the faint, and strength to them that have no might of their own, to resist this, and

every other temptation of that wicked one, who was a liar from the beginning."

His means becoming speedily reduced, and failing in his attempts to procure employment, he could not bear the thought of making his fallen condition known to his friends. Under these circumstances, he entered the army as a volunteer.

CHAPTER II.

D. WHEELER GOES TO IRELAND WITH HIS REGIMENT — HARASSING SERVICE — RETURNS TO ENGLAND — EMBARKS FOR CAMPAIGN ON THE CONTINENT — GREAT EXPOSURE AND SUFFERING.

THE regiment in which he engaged was soon after ordered to Ireland, and was stationed at Dublin, in that agitated state of public affairs which resulted in open rebellion to the government. The fatigue of the troops was great, as they were required to be on duty every other night, and this in the winter season.

Proceeding with his narrative, we find: "Discontent increasing, and disturbances breaking out in the interior of the country. Small detachments of troops were despatched from Dublin, to strengthen the authority of the magistrates in their endeavours to maintain public tranquillity, and to afford protection to the peaceable inhabitants from the nightly depredations of numerous gangs of misled and intoxicated desperadoes, to which they and their property were constantly exposed, under a variety of pretences. It was my lot," he says, "to be chosen with the first of the detached parties, to a share of this dangerous and harassing service; on which, such was at one time the emergency, that we were kept on the alert

night after night, without any intermission, for a week together, with only such intervals of rest as could be procured in the day-time. Whilst on this expedition, on a particular enterprise with a constable, I was, to all appearance, reduced to the necessity of taking the life of another to save my own. The constable, perceiving the danger, had left me alone; when I was suddenly attacked by a poor infuriated creature, in a state little short of perfect madness, from continued intoxication, supported by several others, but in a less outrageous condition. I kept him at bay for some time; but at last he got so near, that it became every moment more difficult to avoid being reached by the violent strokes he made with some kind of weapon, I think of iron, which were repeatedly received by the firelock in my hands, then loaded with ball. In this situation there seemed left to me no other than the dreadful alternative of shooting him to save myself. I called in vain in the language of appeal to the other people to interfere: they stood by, as if to see how matters were likely to terminate, before they began to act or take a part of any consequence either way, which they nearly carried too far; but when they saw me actually preparing to shoot the man, they hastily cried out, 'Spare life! spare life!'—which I only wanted their help to enable me to accomplish. They then seized him, and in the midst of the struggle and confusion which took place amongst themselves, my escape was happily effected. I cannot suppose, at that time, when I wanted only the help of other men to enable

me to spare life, that the principal motive was other than that of self-preservation. Therefore it is greatly to be feared (although that heart must be callous indeed, which in all such cases does not recoil from the horrid act) that it was not love to my fellow-creature which prompted the desire in me to spare his life. Let none mistake it as such. I have frequently thought of this circumstance since it occurred, I hope with humble thankfulness to the great Preserver of men; and now, on committing it to record, as one of those many events in which there was but one step between me and the grave, and whilst shuddering at the strong recollection of it, my soul magnifies that unmerited and amazing mercy, afresh displayed to my understanding in a two-fold view — on the one hand in withholding me from the crime of taking away the life of a fellow-creature, like myself, 'in the gall of bitterness;' and, if I had escaped myself, thus sparing me, at this late hour, amidst the decay of nature, when the shadows of the evening are stretching out, and my feet drawing near the margin of the grave, the appalling thought of a brother's blood yet unwiped away: on the other hand, in rescuing from immediate death two miserable sinners wholly unprepared to die; for, had I taken away the man's life, my own would doubtless have been forthwith sacrificed to the revenge of his enraged companions. Thus, as my history rolls on, the enormous load of debt which I already owe unto my Lord still accumulates; and verily it never can be liquidated but in that infinite and wondrous mercy

which delighteth to forgive every repenting sinner, who, in the depths of humility and abasedness of self, has indeed 'nothing to pay' withal."

He was relieved from this arduous duty by being promoted to a position in the writing department of the commander-in-chief, at Dublin. This gave him greater liberty and larger means to take his swing in every inordinate gratification of that extensive city. "Thus," he says, "adding sin to sin, and making farther woful work for repentance. Although at times, in the midst of these evil practices, I was made sensible of convicting reproofs, sufficient to have awakened any one but myself, yet they only seemed to deter me for a short interval from persisting in them, or until another opportunity offered — such was their dominion over me. This course was, however, at last stopped by the sudden march of the regiment to Granard; but not before my health had begun to suffer from my folly.

Our stay was not long at this place; for the French Revolution, which had occurred about two years before, now began to occasion more frequent movements and changes amongst the military. I was engaged in some hazardous enterprises whilst lying here; and, although the town was small, and our time in it short, yet there were sufficient temptations to be found for my unwary feet to fall into. From this place, a part of the regiment, consisting of two hundred picked men and a suitable number of officers, was drafted to serve in an expedition then preparing to act in the West Indies. The same quota

was selected from every regiment in Ireland, then seventeen in number, and possibly from every regiment in England also. From all the information that I could ever obtain, the greatest part, if not the whole, of these poor devoted fellows, then declared to be the flower of the British army, fell victims to the climate and the war. I mention this lamentable fact, although foreign to my subject, to perpetuate all in my power [the knowledge of] the ravages of this horrid and desolating scourge of the human race. At the same time, under a deep sense of my then sinful condition, my mind is struck with admiration, that I was not included in the above-mentioned draft, to which I was no less liable than others; were it only as a punishment which I so justly merited, for my unprecedented rebellion against a long-suffering and all-gracious Lord God.

Our next remove was to Galway, where, after some weeks, I was again promoted, from what cause I do not now remember; but, as had been the case in the navy, so now, however profligate my conduct in the general, I still kept up a fair name, by being ready for all the duties that devolved upon me."

New regiments being required to prosecute more vigorously the continental war, Daniel Wheeler was selected, with others, to expedite their formation. He returned to Dublin to engage in this recruiting service. The number stipulated having been raised and accepted by the government, he was promoted shortly after joining the new regiment. His narrative proceeds: "Such was the urgency of affairs just

then, that, whilst in a raw and incomplete state of discipline, almost beyond conception, from the wildness of character of the class of people of which the principal part of the regiment was composed, immediate embarkation was ordered. When the time for sending off these newly-raised troops was fully come, the utmost despatch was necessary; for it was very evident, that had time been allowed for the information to spread to any material extent, the embarkation could scarcely have been effected without bloodshed. As it was, though the preparations commenced soon after three o'clock in the morning, the concourse of people assembled together was immense, to behold their countrymen, in every relation of fathers, husbands, brothers, and sons, forced away from their native shores — I may say forced away, for it was necessary to assemble a strong military force from the garrison to insure the embarkation, which, after all, was not effected without some difficulty. From my own personal knowledge of the fate of many of these poor fellows, and of the destination of those remaining after I left them, I think it scarcely probable that any of them ever returned.

We were favoured with a fine passage to the Severn, and landed about six miles below Bristol; in which city we remained one night, and then marched forward to an encampment, where several other regiments were previously assembled, at Netley Abbey. From the undisciplined condition, with but small exception, of the officers and men who composed our regiment, it was only reasonable to suppose

it had now reached its destination for the present; but, after a few weeks' training, it was numbered with the line. We received a set of new colours, and embarked on Southampton river, with the other regiments which formed the camp at Netley Abbey, to join the British army then on the continent, under the command of the Duke of York. We dropped down to Spithead next morning, and the same afternoon Earl Moira, the commander-in-chief, having joined the expedition, we sailed, thirty-seven ships in company, under convoy, to the coast of Flanders.

The weather being thick, with light airs of wind, our passage, though fine, was rather tedious, before reaching an anchorage off the port of Ostend. From circumstances of an unfavourable cast, unknown to us at the time, it was judged most prudent for the expedition to be free from every incumbrance likely to retard or impede its movements through the Netherlands; the success and safety of the enterprise wholly depending upon its ability to evade and elude, by the rapidity of its movements, in forced marches by night, the greatly disproportionate strength of the enemy. The number of troops then under Earl Moira was little more than 7000; whilst the French force, through which we had to pass, was estimated at 80,000, and they were at the time so posted, as seemed to prohibit our junction with the Duke's army. It was therefore concluded, that every article of baggage and stores, belonging either to officers or soldiers, beyond what they could themselves carry, should be left on board the ships. At

an early hour of the morning after our arrival in the roads off the town of Ostend, every officer and soldier was furnished with a blanket, and an allowance of three days' provisions and water, from the stores of the transports; it being very uncertain whether any supplies could be obtained for some days to come. Thus provided, the troops were disembarked under cover of two large floating batteries, prepared for the occasion, to prevent any attempt to frustrate their descent. As the boats employed had many times to pass to and fro, between the ships and the shore, before the whole were conveyed, it was near night when the landing was fully accomplished. To expedite the landing, a large float was made use of, to assist in crossing a narrow space of water connected with the harbour; so that the troops were enabled to land at more than one point at a time, and then unite. It was well for those who had nothing to do with this ill-adapted float; for, in the hurry, it became overladen with soldiers, and was quickly overturned, causing the loss of many men, who, from their being encumbered with arms, baggage, and provisions, were incapable of making much effort to save themselves; this weight being strongly attached to their bodies, they sank before they could extricate themselves from it. I landed on the main shore of the harbour, and thus providentially escaped with only seeing the float then loading, just before the accident happened.

I do not know how it fared with others, but it is scarcely probable, all circumstances considered, that

there could be any material superiority in the accommodation of one more than another. On the morning that we landed, I might doubtless have been supplied with a blanket, in common with others; but as I occupied a station, in which little rest could be expected, even when others slept, and supposing that I should be able to borrow from some of the others, when they could not be used by themselves, this opportunity was lost; but I afterwards regretted the non-acceptance of it. From the day we left the transports, several weeks elapsed before I got to sleep under the cover of a tent; as these, with the rest of the luggage and stores, were left on board the ships to be conveyed to Helvoetsluys, as a place more secure from the French than Ostend. We remained upon the sand-hills near Ostend three days and nights after landing, and then commenced a march which could scarcely be equalled for fatigue and hardship; as we were wholly unprovided with provisions, and every common necessary with which the generality of troops are usually furnished at the opening of a campaign.

It would be no very difficult task for me, at this day, to enter into minute detail of particular circumstances, were it consistent with the declared object before me, in setting about to pen this memoir; for, although so many years have rolled away since these miserable scenes were actually shared in and witnessed, yet such are the strong impressions stamped on my memory by the sufferings endured, and the manifold deliverances which followed, that while en-

deavouring to insert such incidents only as are needful to preserve the chain of history, in sufficient links of connection to enable me to proceed with correctness—transactions that have long been forgotten, though they once formed a prominent feature in the toils of the day, are recalled from oblivion in a remarkable manner. I must, however, forbear to intrude them here, and proceed again with saying, that, on leaving the neighbourhood of Ostend, we passed through Bruges, and penetrated into the country by way of Ghent. The first halting-place of the army, in the evening of the same day that it left the coast, was called the 'Pigeon's Nest;' but it did not prove a very quiet one, for, by two o'clock in the morning, the advance of the enemy was announced by the firing of the picquets by which we were surrounded. Whether this attack was intended to alarm only, or to endeavour to take us by surprise, I never understood; if the latter, it certainly failed, for the troops were literally sleeping on their arms, covered with their blankets, so that in a few minutes a line was formed, with the commander-in-chief present. It was, however, considered prudent to remain there no longer, and in half an hour this post was abandoned, and the march continued until noon the next day, when a stoppage occurred, from the French having occupied a bridge over which we had to pass. Notwithstanding the men were almost ready to faint for want of food, having scarcely tasted any thing for twenty-four hours, yet on its being proclaimed through the line that volunteers were wanted to

force the passage over the bridge, a sufficient number immediately offered, apparently glad of such an opportunity. After three hours' detention, the obstruction was removed, I am inclined to think by its being found that the force advancing against it was much too strong for that by which the bridge was occupied. The army then moved forward until midnight, although its course was much impeded by a tremendous storm of thunder, lightning, and heavy rain, which commenced at nine, P. M., and continued several hours. I do not see how I could have sufficiently exalted the name of my God, and His gracious dealings with a poor benighted and rebellious creature, without mentioning the two facts just related; inasmuch as they magnify, in my view, His long-suffering and protection to one who was utterly insensible of His loving kindness, and who then knew Him not; and I trust I shall not be permitted to overlook or pass by any thing that will show forth His praise, and tend to His glory; or be prevented from acknowledging His power and His might, who hath, according to His mercy, so many times delivered me out of every distress. For, notwithstanding the constant exposure to every shower of rain that fell, without covering over my head, and with no couch but the earth, and that at times soaked with wet; whilst harassed with fatiguing marches night after night, and with little rest by day; amidst hunger and thirst, being often short of food for days together, and occasionally no water to be had, without digging a well to procure it, to avoid the

unwholesome waters of the stagnant pools; and although for several weeks together my clothes were never taken off but to renew a shirt, and my shoes but seldom off my weary feet; yet, through all, my health was not materially affected till near the approach of winter. But, in the above description, not one half has been told of that marvellous mercy which was still extended for my preservation, when many fell by the sword, or were taken captives by the enemy; when thousands were swept off by pestilence; and, whilst unhurt myself, I saw the wounds of others bleed. Once, whilst gone to Helvoetsluys in search of some baggage, I entirely missed a contest, in which our regiment was deprived of twenty-eight men; and when at last overwhelmed with sickness and distress, the same Divine and compassionate arm of everlasting love and strength was still underneath to bear up my helpless head, and in His own time to rescue me from the very jaws of death, to celebrate His praise, and to declare, in humble thankfulness and gratitude of soul, 'His wonderful works to the children of men.'"

CHAPTER III.

PRESERVED FROM DANGER IN THE FIELD OF BATTLE — ATTACKED BY FEVER — HOSPITAL TREATMENT — REMARKABLE RECOVERY — RETREAT OF THE ARMY — RETURN TO ENGLAND.

"As the winter approached, the health of the troops began to fail to an alarming and awful extent, from exposure to cold rains, which fell almost daily; and yet we were compelled to keep the field, being constantly on the retreat before the greatly superior force of the enemy. As we drew near the walls of Nimeguen, the British forces made a stand, probably to afford time for preparing a floating-bridge across the Waal, to secure our retreat behind that river. At the same time, the French used every effort in their power to intercept our retreat, by endeavouring to get between us and Nimeguen, which, from the strength of its fortifications, was capable of affording a cover for several days, or until our army had passed in safety over the bridge.

The last two or three days the contest between the two armies became more severe, by the continual arrival of fresh divisions of the French at this point: on the last day the cannon scarcely ceased to roar from sun-rise to sun-set. The regiment to which I belonged was ordered on the reserve with three

others; two of which were British, and the third Hanoverian. As the cannonade increased, the first regiment of reserve was called upon, in two hours after the second summoned, and by eleven o'clock in the forenoon, the third. The direction from which the sound of the conflict issued, left no doubt that it was rapidly approaching the ground on which we stood; and although, as the last reserve, we had not been ordered to march, yet our tents were struck, and every thing prepared to move on the first alarm.* I had been going about in the wet for several days previous, without the practicability of obtaining dry clothes; and this day being colder and more rainy than usual, with the increased exertion necessary on account of the threatening aspect of things close upon us, might hasten an illness, the foundation of which had already been deeply laid, and which began with shivering fits, just in the interval of waiting for the expected courier to call us to the field of slaughter. About three o'clock in the afternoon, a light dragoon arrived with a dispatch; but instead of its hastening us to the scene of action, it proved to be an order for us to join the rear of another regiment then retreating towards Nimeguen. Our army, after sustaining for many hours with great loss the unequal combat, was at length compelled to retire. Thus were we preserved when on the very brink of danger, in a manner as unlooked for as unmerited, from sharing

* Our expedition landed without any tents, but a supply was furnished about six weeks afterwards, I think whilst we were encamped on the plains of Breda.

in the disasters of a day in which much human life was wasted, and which entailed great suffering and distress on many who survived it. After we had moved forward two or three miles, the coldness and shivering I had previously felt were succeeded by violent heat and fever, and my throat seemed almost closed up. For several days I had found swallowing very painful and difficult, from its extreme soreness; but had taken little notice of it. In this condition I was still able to keep up with the body of the regiment; but, after entering the gates of Nimeguen, from the frequent stoppages which took place in the miry streets of the city, owing to accidents constantly occurring with the floating-bridge, occasioned by the fire of the French upon it, I became more and more affected with something of the cramp kind, which nearly prevented my standing upright. As the night drew on, it became colder, and my pain increased, but I kept going on as well as I could: at length we came in sight of the bridge, when we were again stopped for some time. I was near the colours of the regiment, and an officer who carried one of them made some remarks to me about the bridge; but feeling myself much worse, I told him I should never go over that bridge. He endeavoured to cheer me up, saying, that I should go over that and many more; but, however, my assertion proved correct; for, before the line again moved forward, I had left it, and was leaning against the wall of a house, no longer able to proceed, from increased illness.

In this position I remained for some time; and

after having painfully beheld the last of the rear of the regiment pass on and leave me behind, there seemed to be no hope left, as the only men in the world from whom I could expect a helping hand were all out of sight. But, although apparently forsaken by all, and left to perish unseen and unknown, yet that ever-compassionate Arm, which had so often been with me in extremity, was again stretched out, and did not long allow me to remain in this deplorable condition; but, in adorable mercy, my gracious Lord was pleased to put into the hearts of some of the regiment who knew the real cause of my absence, to send two of the men back to endeavour to find me out, and render every assistance in their power. As I had not gone from the place where I stopped, they had no difficulty in finding me, although it was by that time nearly dark; but as I could not possibly go forward to the regiment, they at last concluded to leave me in the hands of a picquet of cavalry, which was left to cover the retreat of the army through the city. Having helped me to the place, and left me in charge of the picquet, they made off with all haste to overtake their companions. Here the wife of a soldier gave me some ground pepper mixed with heated spirits; and although, from the state of my throat, I could scarcely swallow the fiery mixture, yet it proved useful, considerably relieving the pain in my stomach, and renewing the general warmth. As it was expected that the enemy would attack the batteries in the night (which however was not the case, although they kept up a heavy firing), I was

helped into a loft, to be out of the way; here I remained until the morning, and was then assisted on board of a galliot, provided for the reception of those who, like myself, were disabled by sickness or other causes. The hold of this vessel was filled with as many people as could lie close to each other: they were in the various stages of a violent epidemic disorder; and, from the heat occasioned by so many being crowded together, the air was very oppressive, and difficult to breathe. Two other galliots of a similar description proceeded in company with us up the river, in hopes of getting round a neck of land at which the Waal and the Rhine unite. But although considerable exertions were made by the sailors, aided by such of the sick as were at all able to stand, of whom I made one, they had not succeeded in warping round the point, when a party of French hussars made their appearance on the shore. It was fully expected they would endeavour to prevent our escape, by opening a fire with cannon; but before they had time to bring any near enough to bear on us, we had got fairly into the current of the Rhine, and were soon beyond their reach. Being much exhausted, I went below, but soon became very ill from the closeness of the place. Whilst under this and other distressing circumstances, both of body and mind, one of our companions, who lay next but one to me, was removed by death from all his troubles; and although none of us could expect, at the time, but that a similar fate would in all probability soon overtake us,—yet, in my own case at

least, notwithstanding I was worn down with fatigue and sickness, and without a glimpse of any thing to make life any longer desirable, except the fear of death, — still, nature could not but feel appalled, when the dead body of a fellow-sufferer was dragged past, to be taken on to the deck of the vessel. As the evening came on, I became much worse; and although the night was cold and frosty, I thought it better to get on deck, where I could breathe more freely, rather than remain any longer below; accordingly three or four of the people helped me up, for I was now so faint for want of support, that I had scarcely any strength left. I remained on deck all night, and got a little sleep; in the morning, the cold compelled me again to go below, but I felt a little refreshed, and better able to bear the closeness of the place, keeping near the hatchway, where there was a greater circulation of air. In two days more we arrived at Rhenin, a town close to the bank of the Rhine, where an old monastery was fitted up as an hospital for the British sick.

Sometime after reaching this place, a person came on board the galliot to see if there were any amongst the newly-arrived sick with whom he was acquainted. He came down below, and, after looking round, was about going away, when I made what effort I could for some one to stop him. He had looked at me, amongst the rest; but I was so much reduced and altered in appearance that he had not recognised me, but passed by, although he had once known me very well. When brought back, he soon recollected me,

and feelingly expressed great regret at finding his old acquaintance in such a weak condition. He had been a patient in this hospital himself, and when restored to health again, being found an active and useful person, he was retained as a ward-master for the benefit of others. Having had the fever, he was tolerably well acquainted with the best mode of treating it; and soon after finding me, he administered a small quantity of strong cordial, which had the desired effect for a short time, by enabling me to get on shore. With his assistance I was conveyed to the hospital, where he soon procured one of the surgeons to examine me; and being very desirous to render every assistance in his power, he suggested to him the propriety of giving some particular medicine, which had often proved useful in bad cases; to which the surgeon replied, not aware that I heard all that was passing between them, 'He will not want any thing long.' By this it was evident that mine was considered a hopeless case; which could not be wondered at, the disorder having been so fatal, that those who had recovered were said not to average more than one in fifty; and as my attack had been so long neglected, the conclusion was reasonable, although it did not prove correct. In a few days I was so much recruited as to be able to walk about the town; but it was a distinguishing characteristic of this complaint, that having once had it was no security whatever against a second attack, and that those who got well through it the first, or perhaps the second time, were frequently its victims on the third

encounter. I found by experience that this report was not without foundation; for instead of being fully restored to health again, as for the first few days seemed probable, the disorder returned a second time, and with much more violent symptoms. As a state of high delirium soon came on, I was but a short time sensible of what transpired, after the application of a large blister; except the workings of a terrified imagination, some of the impressions of which, even at this distance of time, are not wholly obliterated from my memory, so deeply and strongly were they engraven. From the treatment which followed, when no longer delirious, the disorder must have been of the nature of typhus; as at one time a liberal allowance per day of equal parts of brandy and port wine was given me, as hot as could well be taken. How long this continued I am not aware, but I was confined to my bed for such a length of time, as to be wholly unable to move in any direction, from extreme weakness; and so generally was this the case in this disorder, that a man was appointed in every ward to go round occasionally, to turn from one side to the other such of the patients as were incapable of turning themselves.

I was at length brought so near the brink of the grave, that, to all appearance, no alteration for the better could be expected. I am not aware that I had even a wish to live; but my mind was so reconciled to the prospect of death, which then seemed near and inevitable, that I had given my watch into the hands of the person who had visited the galliot, with a request that he would inform my family where

I had ended my days. Indeed, when some expectation of recovery was at last held out, I could not help looking forward, with a feeling of regret, to the probability of having again to encounter the series of hardships and distress to which I should unavoidably be subjected. As I regained a little strength, I began to take notice of the state of things around me; and having daily heard a noise like that of a carpenter's shop, I now ascertained the cause to be the nailing up of the coffins, each day, of those who had died in the last twenty-four hours; and I found that the dead-house, or place where the dead were deposited previously to interment, when taken out of the wards, being opposite the windows of the room I was in, afforded full opportunity for my beholding the striking and affecting scene, which could not fail to excite feelings of horror and dismay in one so much enervated by the very disease which I now witnessed to be so fatal to others. The average number of deaths was twenty-seven in a day and night; but sometimes the number so increased, that the Dutch could not furnish coffins sufficient for the demand of the day; and then the method of sewing up the bodies in the bedding they had occupied, was resorted to. Several wagon loads of bodies were carried off every afternoon for interment.*

* The accounts of the deplorable treatment of the sick, and of the disasters of the British army in their retreat to Bremen, as given in the Annual Register of 1795, more than confirm the description of the author of this biographical sketch.

When able to walk about the room with the assistance of my stick, it happened that the regiment to which I belonged was quartered in a village about two miles from the bank of the Rhine, opposite to that on which the hospital stood. Some of the officers came over to ascertain for themselves whether any of the missing from their regiment were amongst the sick: at length they came into the ward where I was, and the second in command, with whom I was well acquainted, being with them, I requested his help to get me liberated from the hospital, telling him that I had no chance of becoming thoroughly well whilst in it, and of the danger to which I was constantly exposed of having another relapse. He immediately applied to some of the medical staff on duty, and conducted them to me through the wards; but it ended in his informing me that the doctors could not suffer my going out until farther recovered, as I was quite unfit for exposure. Not knowing how long I might be detained, I was now determined to make my escape on the first opportunity; and the next day being remarkably fine, I walked out two or three times into the air, though with much difficulty, The following morning I met with a person belonging to the regiment, who was going to join it again the same afternoon; and, as we were well acquainted, I did not hesitate to disclose my intention of quitting the hospital in a clandestine manner, and resolved to accompany him, if possible.

I returned again to the hospital, as at other times; and in the afternoon, as if going to take another walk,

I proceeded to the river side; and the ferry-boat being just ready for setting off, I got into it undiscovered, and passed the Rhine, arriving at the village of Kesterne soon after dark the same evening, without taking cold, although the river was thickly frozen over, and a passage cut through the ice, to allow the ferry-boat to cross backwards and forwards. From this time I rapidly gathered strength, and at the end of a week was so much recruited, as to venture back to the hospital to see how those fared whom I had left behind; at the same time, it is very probable, to show how I had fared myself; without any fear of being detained, as I was evidently much stronger than when under their roof. To lessen the fatigue, I procured a horse for the excursion, and proceeded accordingly towards the river side. The risk I then ran, however unwarrantable, afforded me another opportunity of seeing the effect of a renewed attack of this dreadful disorder upon a Scotch sergeant of the Highland watch, who had had the fever twice, and both times recovered from it. He was a very stout man, and when I left the hospital appeared in perfect health and strength. In the interval of my absence, he had been seized with it a third time, and when I saw him, had nearly finished his course; he was speechless, and survived but a short time afterwards: I think this last time, he was ill only three days. Although I escaped any farther infection, yet I was punished for my temerity before getting back again to Kesterne. After crossing the river in the boat, I had to pass through a small sheet of shallow

water, which had been frozen, but was then broken up by the loaded wagons that passed that way. On getting up to it, I found it in a half-frozen state, the old ice not being sufficiently strongly united again to bear the horse, which refused to pass it; and on my urging him forward, he lay down with me in the water. It was with difficulty that I could extricate myself from him, and it is doubtful whether I should have succeeded, without the assistance of another person then at hand. In this wet condition I had a long distance to go, in a keen frosty night, in an open wagon, which the day following threatened a renewal of my illness; but, by the timely use of medicines, I was favoured, not according to my deserts, to escape without any serious indisposition.

In looking back at the marvellous manner in which I was sustained through all this conflict, and again restored as one brought back from the dead, I cannot avoid adverting to that period of my illness when my mind felt so reconciled to the prospect of death, as before-mentioned; and I now fully believe, from what I have since been mercifully favoured to experience, that so far from being in any degree prepared for such an awful event, a deceptive feeling must have been superinduced by the state of torpor and insensibility in which I then was, and which totally benumbed any better feelings and desires as to the future. To this may be added a predominating fear of having to endure more of those sufferings, of which I had had no small share; which, the probability of being again restored to health seemed to

banish every hope of escaping. Truly awful is the thought which this view of my then lost condition occasions, when I contemplate the woe and misery which must have been my eternal portion, if unutterable mercy and long-suffering had been withdrawn; and if the soul had been required of one who had witnessed no repentance towards God the Judge of all, except what at times the fear of punishment had extorted; and who was a stranger to that saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, as the 'Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world' — without which, His precious blood would have been shed in vain for me: — I should thus have died in my sins, which, unrepented of, would have followed after to judgment, in terrible array against my guilty soul; and yet when my end was apparently so near and inevitable, if such questions as are frequently proposed on the like occasions had been put to me, I have little doubt but satisfactory answers would have been returned, as to my belief and hope in the essential truths of the gospel. But, alas! this would have been from hearsay and traditional report, and not from any heartfelt saving knowledge of my own; for it is now plain to my understanding, that no man can have saving faith in Jesus Christ, who is unacquainted with, and does not walk in, the light of that Divine Spirit, which is so justly styled the Spirit of faith. It is through this alone that the death and sufferings of Christ and his whole sacrifice for sin are availing, and truly applied to all those who through faith lay hold of Him, the true Light and

Saviour of them that believe in His inward and spiritual appearance. These can say to others, from sensible and blessed experience: 'Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world:' they have received the atonement by Him, and they reap the glorious fruit and benefit of His death and suffering for sin, by the sacrifice of Himself, and of His resurrection and ascension; in that He ever liveth to make intercession for those who are thus willing to come unto God by Him. A man may yield an assent to all the great and solemn truths of Christianity,—the miraculous birth, holy life, cruel sufferings, ignominious death, and glorious resurrection and ascension of our blessed Redeemer;—he may believe, in the abstract, in His inward and spiritual appearance in the hearts of mankind by His Holy Spirit; and yet he may fall short of the prize immortal, unless he comes to witness the saving operation of the Holy Spirit in his own heart, and to know thereby, through faith in it, a purifying preparation for the kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. How can I sufficiently appreciate or declare the extent of the endless mercy which suffered me not to perish in the midst of my sins, when so many were swept away by the same pestilential disorder!

After having mentioned the facts connected with my sickness and recovery, it seems only due, however feeble on my part the effort, to endeavour to commemorate such gracious dealings with humble gratitude and reverence; earnestly desiring that no motive

whatever may be allowed to prevail with me for making the attempt, but that of promoting the glory and honour of the Great Name; that others may know, and fear, and believe in the all-sufficiency of that power which hath 'showed me the path of life,' and which alone can bless for their instruction what has been written, to press the necessity of contending for that saving faith 'once delivered to the saints.' Without it, all religious profession is a dream, a shadow, and a doubt; but with it, a glorious reality;—yea, 'the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen,'—even the salvation of the soul, through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Whilst the severity of the winter greatly facilitated the operations of the French army, by enabling them to cross the frozen rivers without difficulty, and at almost any given point; so it contributed most effectually to harass the diminished numbers of the retreating British forces. It was the more felt from the scarcity of provisions, occasioned by the inhabitants withholding from us every supply, in compliance with the intimidating threatenings of our victorious enemy; so that we frequently could not procure needful food even for money, whilst our opponents were supplied by the terrified householders at free cost. In some places, the inhabitants openly declared they were withholding their provisions for the supply of the French, aware of the cruel treatment they should witness at their hands, if unable to provide for them when they arrived; although they consi-

dered the British to be their friends, and were well treated by them.

Before I left the hospital at Rhenin, the French had approached so near, that the windows of the place frequently shook with the discharge of their artillery. Sometimes a wagon load of the wounded English would arrive at the hospital; when many, whose recovery would in a healthy situation have been speedy and almost certain, were carried off in a few days by the infectious disorder which prevailed at the place; and, from the disastrous issue of the campaign, however greatly this was to be deplored, it could not be avoided. We were not long permitted to remain at Kesterne, before being obliged to move towards the north of Holland; when the town of Rhenin, with the hospital, fell into the hands of the enemy. Soon after this event, the frost became more intense; and the Dutch could no longer make graves for the interment of the dead, but piled the coffins upon each other in great numbers, until a thaw took place.

Although my strength was considerably recruited before we left Kesterne, I was yet very unequal to the subsequent exposure, having to pass great part of the first night in the frost, after leaving that place; but although I slept in a cart with a canvass tilt, I do not remember taking cold, or otherwise experiencing any injurious effects, either then or afterwards, beyond what might have been expected from great fatigue and improper diet, there being at that time little to be procured, but coarse black bread

and ardent spirits. During this harassing march, at such an inclement season, many of the poor men lost parts of their toes, by imprudently sitting down in the frost for too long a time at once, and from not having their feet properly protected. I can well remember having been so wearied myself, as to come to the determination to sit down, and risk the consequence, although fully aware of the danger of falling asleep in such circumstances; but I was prompted by a secret impulse to resist the inclination, although nearly overcome with fatigue; then after moving about a while longer, I have again begun to give way, but still struggled on. And when at last it seemed as if human nature must give up, the thought of relations in England, as if I had had a home, would cross my mind, and stimulate me to try again in hope, until something has occurred to bring relief, and shelter, and repose. Perhaps, if more food could have been procured, the propensity to sleep, which exposure to cold occasioned, would have been irresistible.

In this manner the winter wore away; but at length we got so far out of the reach of the French, as to allow a longer space of time for rest at each place we arrived at. The cold weather continued until we reached the banks of the river Weser; when the retreating wreck of our army was unexpectedly cheered with a sight of the mast-heads of the British fleet lying off Bremen-leke, and waiting to convey it from the shores of the continent, where it had witnessed so much distress, wasting, and de-

struction — to be attributed much more to hardships, fatigue, and pestilence, than to the sword of the enemy, although greatly superior to us in strength, and possessing local advantages of which we were wholly destitute."

[*Here ends the Author's biographical sketch of his own life.*]

CHAPTER IV.

SAILS WITH HIS REGIMENT TO THE WEST INDIES—WONDERFUL PRESERVATION—SERIOUS IMPRESSIONS—RETURNS TO ENGLAND—CONVINCED OF FRIENDS' PRINCIPLES—BECOMES A MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY—SETTLES IN BUSINESS—HIS MARRIAGE—ACKNOWLEDGED AS A MINISTER.

No biographical memoranda appear to have been made by Daniel Wheeler for many years subsequent to this period. In the autumn of 1795 he obtained a commission in a regiment destined for the West Indies, and sailed with the expedition appointed to this service under Sir Ralph Abercrombie. After a most stormy and disastrous passage, they were once in sight of the islands, but were driven back by a dreadful hurricane, in which several of the vessels foundered, and great numbers of the troops perished. A malignant fever also raged with fatal violence among the crews of the fleet; and in the ship in which he had embarked, twenty-seven fell victims to it within a short interval.

Daniel Wheeler experienced a remarkable preservation at this time, to which he often referred, as a merciful interposition of an overruling Providence in his behalf. The vessel in which he was appointed to sail, and which was considered a remarkably fine one, was crowded, from the preference given to her

by many of the officers. After they had been some weeks at sea, a collier (being one of the vessels hired as transports) coming alongside, he proposed to one of his friends that they should go on board of her. His fellow-officers ridiculed the idea of preferring an old collier to the noble ship in which they were; but he and his friend persisted, and transferred themselves to her. The same evening a hurricane arose, and the vessel they had quitted was never heard of afterwards.

In connection with this period, he remarked to a friend, on being questioned as to the means made use of in the Divine hand for effecting 'a new birth unto righteousness' in his heart, that he could not remember any outward means having been employed, unless indeed he might except a storm at sea, during which his mind was deeply affected; and when under a feeling of his lost condition by nature, he was mercifully enabled also to see the remedy, and the entire spirituality of the gospel dispensation. "I was at this time convinced," he says, "of Friends' principles, they being neither more nor less, in my estimation, than pure Christianity. When Friends visited me, on my application for membership, I told them I was convinced at sea; for I verily believed, in looking back, that this had been the case: no human means were made use of; it was altogether the immediate work of the Holy Spirit upon my heart." He resolved that, if again permitted to reach the shore, he would endeavour to lead a life of more circumspection, and which should tend to the glory

of God, who had thus so mercifully visited him by His free grace. Becoming dissatisfied with the military profession, he quitted the army in the early part of the year 1796.

He now became an inmate in the family of his eldest sister, who had married a member of the Society of Friends, and having become convinced of their religious principles, had united herself to them. Here his mind was renewedly impressed with the great importance of Divine truth. The little meeting which he attended in the early part of his religious course, that of Handsworth Woodhouse, was usually held in silence; and he was often known to refer to some of those solemn seasons, as times of peculiar instruction to his mind, in which the power of the Lord was sensibly felt and His truth revealed.

Being made a partaker of the great privilege enjoyed by those who are of the flock of Christ, in being enabled to distinguish between the voice of the Good Shepherd and that of the stranger, he was earnestly desirous that obedience should keep pace with knowledge. He waited patiently upon the Lord for instruction in his various steppings, and being brought into a state of deep humility and prostration of spirit, he was made sensible that the only path in which he could walk with safety was that of self-denial. Much mental conflict was at this season his portion; but peace was only to be obtained by the entire surrender of the will; and in conformity with what he believed to be required of him, he adopted the plain dress of the Society of Friends.

In the year 1797 he was received into membership with that Society, and about the same time he engaged in the seed trade, at Sheffield. By the Divine blessing on his exertions, he soon succeeded in obtaining a business fully adequate to his moderate desires. It was his daily practice, at those intervals when the attendance in his shop could be dispensed with, if but for a few minutes at a time, to retire to a small apartment behind it, and in a prayerful spirit to explore the contents of the sacred volume: the light which shone upon many passages, as he read, and the clear and strong views of religious truth which were then unfolded to his seeking soul, were such as greatly to confirm his faith, and strengthen him to persevere in that strait and narrow path into which his feet had been so mercifully turned. The study of many of the prophetical books of Holy Writ was at this time the means of great comfort and encouragement to him; and the extensive and accurate knowledge of these parts of Scripture for which he was afterwards conspicuous, was then chiefly acquired. It was his uniform practice, from his first commencement in trade, to close his shop during the hours of worship on week-days; and though this must have required a strong exercise of faith, at a time when his future support seemed to depend on his assiduity and exertion, he was never satisfied to neglect the worship of Almighty God from the prospect of any outward advantage; and he has often expressed his belief that a blessing had rested on this sacrifice of apparent interest to duty

In the year 1800 he was married to Jane Brady, of Thorne—a union productive of much solid happiness to both. She possessed pre-eminently the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which was happily associated with a degree of firmness and moral courage that enabled her to meet calmly, in after life, trials and difficulties of no ordinary kind, and led her cheerfully to unite in every step her beloved husband felt called to take, whatever sacrifice it might involve.

Daniel Wheeler was watchful to prevent his business from engrossing more of his thoughts than was consistent with his higher duties. Finding his trade to increase, and demand a closer attention than he felt satisfied to give, he thought it his duty to relinquish a very profitable portion of it, and engage in agricultural pursuits. Farther impressions of duty led him entirely to give up the business he had so successfully established, believing that it would conduce to his present peace and future well-being. "Not," he says, "that I have acquired a sufficiency without doing something for a livelihood; far from it. I have still a prospect of maintaining my family comfortably, with care and industry, leaving the event to Him who knows the thoughts and intents of the heart; and though my income will be smaller than it is at present, my expenses will be smaller in proportion. I have no desire to accumulate riches for my children; the blessing seldom attends it, and the baneful effects thereof are too often visible even in our Society."

In connection with this important change, the following pious reflections are recorded: "Forasmuch as it has pleased Almighty God, in His unutterable mercy and great condescension, in so eminent a manner to rescue my soul from the paths of vice and inevitable destruction, it seems incumbent upon me, in gratitude for such an unspeakable favour, to endeavour, as much as in me lieth, to make all the return I am capable of; and, as much as possible, through His Divine assistance, to dedicate the residue of my days to so gracious and merciful a Creator. I have at seasons, for some years past, when it has pleased the Lord to humble me and make me sensible of my extreme unworthiness, been made willing to make a surrender of my life and my all to Him and His Divine disposal; and the query has often been raised in my heart, what shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits towards me? As I have from time to time endeavoured to dwell near, and abide in and under, the calming influence of His power, I have been led to believe, that something sooner or later would be required as a sacrifice on my part; and having for a considerable time past been fully convinced, not only from my own feelings, but from impressions made upon my mind by divers testimonies borne by exercised Friends, of the necessity of separating myself as much as may be from the world and from the things of the world; and having felt the force of our Lord's declaration on the Mount, 'Ye cannot serve God and Mammon,' I am sensible that the time is at hand for me to put into

practice what I believe to be an indispensable duty. After having experienced such a wonderful and great deliverance from the power of sin and Satan, even as a 'brand plucked out of the burning,' it cannot be supposed that the remainder of my life ought to be spent in the hurry and bustle of business of any kind, and particularly in one which has so much increased as to require more attention than I am capable of paying to it, even if I had no claims of a higher and more important nature to attend to. I have frequently thought, of late, that taking an active partner might answer the end intended, and be a means of removing part of the weight and care from off my shoulders, and at the same time set me at liberty to attend distant meetings, and take exercise in the open air, which my health very much requires; but having given this a solid consideration, I have found that it would only be doing things by halves, as great responsibility and anxiety would still rest upon me: it would seem also like making a reserve of the best of the sheep, and the best of the oxen, the bleating and lowing of which would be continually in my ears."

For a number of years, the impression was strong upon his mind, that he should be called to the work of the ministry; but, in connection with this feeling, he was long harassed with doubts and fears. He was not rebellious, but his faith was weak; he earnestly desired to have indubitable evidence that such was indeed the will of his Lord and Master; but He who knew the sincerity of his heart, graciously conde-

scended, in His own good time, to leave him without a doubt on this important subject. He underwent deep baptisms of spirit; indeed, such were his mental conflicts, that his health materially suffered. In referring to this circumstance at a subsequent period, he remarked to a friend, that he regarded it as an especial blessing to him; for sometimes he slept little, and frequently his nights were spent in prayer; at other times, prayer being his last engagement previous to consigning himself to sleep, he found in the morning, to use his own expression, his "mind still covered with the same precious influence. I think," he added, "I at that time knew in measure what it was to 'stand continually upon the watch-tower in the day-time, and to be set in my ward whole nights.'" His mind at this time appeared to be particularly impressed with the feeling of the great uncertainty of time; so that he has been heard to acknowledge, that for months together he seldom lay down in bed without endeavouring to commit his soul into the hands of the Lord, feeling it very uncertain whether he should be permitted to see the morning's light. In reference to this period, a dear friend remarks: "Of that time, and of many months previous to his appearance as a minister, my recollection is very clear. We were then confidential friends, and often together; and during the lapse of years that has intervened, I have frequently reverted to it. The exercise which then attended him almost bore down the natural cheerfulness of his disposition; he was so serious, so humble, so watchful, lest at any

time he should be thrown off his guard in the freedom of conversation; and lest he should dissipate the influence of that heavenly love and goodness which often filled his mind, and led him into holy covenant with his Lord. He one day took me to a small field nearly surrounded by trees, on the south side of his house, where he told me he was accustomed to retire alone, at an early hour of the morning and late in the evening, and often at noon, when at home — thus adopting the resolution of David, 'Evening and morning and at noon will I pray:' the spiritual communion he witnessed there, and at many other times, would strengthen him, no doubt, in his earnest endeavour to perform the will of his Divine Master. Yet it was only from his deportment that I judged my dear friend to be under preparation for the work of the ministry. He spoke of that exercise to no one; and when our friend Sarah Lamley, who visited families in Sheffield in the summer of 1813, and, in the sitting with his family, told him she was sensible that he was called to that important work, his dear wife heard it with extreme surprise."

Sitting in meeting on one occasion, he was particularly impressed with the language of our Saviour after he had cleansed the leper: 'Were there not ten cleansed, but where are the nine? I tell you there are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.' The remembrance that he had ever read such a passage in the sacred volume was entirely obliterated from his mind; he thought he felt the requisition of duty to address it to the meeting, but

he was perplexed; he knew not at the time where it was to be found; he gave way to reasoning, his dependence not being simply on the Lord alone; and, in great distress of mind, he allowed the meeting to break up. He hastened home, and, opening his Bible, the first passage that met his eye was: 'Were there not ten cleansed,' etc. He was deeply affected; he entered renewedly into covenant with the Lord, that if He would be pleased again to visit him, he would be more faithful; and when again he felt the requisition, he was strengthened in much brokenness to comply. A sweet and inexpressible feeling of peace was mercifully permitted to follow this sacrifice, confirming to his mind that it was indeed a sacrifice prepared of the Lord. In the year 1816 he was acknowledged as a minister in the Society of Friends.

CHAPTER V.

PROSPECT OF DUTY IN RUSSIA — GOES TO PETERSBURG — INTERVIEW WITH PRINCE GALITZIN AND THE EMPEROR — ENGAGES WITH THE RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT TO SUPERINTEND AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENTS — RETURNS HOME AND AGAIN EMBARKS FOR RUSSIA WITH HIS FAMILY — WILLIAM ALLEN AND STEPHEN GRELLET.

THROUGH what appeared very plainly to be a Divine guidance, the thoughts of Daniel Wheeler had been turned towards visiting Russia. For years it had rested on his mind that he would be required to go abroad; and while one day pacing up and down in his parlour, he was led to cry earnestly to the Lord to point out the place where He would have him to go. One of his children was at the time putting together a dissected map, and as his father looked at it his eye rested on Petersburg, with such an intimation that thither his Divine Master would send him, that he never afterwards doubted.

The impressions which induced him to give up his trade and become an agriculturist, assume, in connection with what is now to be related, a striking interest. In this occupation he had succeeded so well as to excite the admiration of the neighbourhood in which he resided. His practical skill demonstrated that his talents in this direction were of a superior kind.

In 1814 the Emperor of Russia visited England, and was much struck with the perfection of the English system of farming. A visit to the farm of a Friend, on the Brighton Road, particularly impressed him. Several years after his return to Russia, he determined to drain and cultivate a large tract of marsh and waste land near Petersburg, and wrote to England for a suitable manager, expressing his wish that he might be a member of the Society of Friends.

The information being received by a Friend of Sheffield, he at once concluded to consult Daniel Wheeler respecting it. To his great surprise, he perceived the decided impression made by the intelligence, which was increased the next morning by D. W. calling to say that for two years past he had been preparing for this situation, and that he had decided to offer himself for it.

In a paper subsequently addressed to an official person in Petersburg, we find the following account of this remarkable intimation of the Divine will, in his own language:

"*Eighth Month,* 13*th,* 1817.

It seems altogether unnecessary to preface what I am about to state in this memorial, seeing that the truth never did and never will need any apology. I shall therefore proceed by observing, that it is now two years and a half since the subject of visiting Russia, and rendering myself useful in promoting the happiness of its numerous inhabitants, was presented to the view of my mind by that inward principle of light and grace, a manifestation of which is

given to every man to profit withal, in which I believe; and Petersburg was the place pointed out to me as the scene of my operations. It was, I must acknowledge, a prospect at which I was ready to shudder; for, although we may at times feel a willingness, and even profess it, to go with our Lord and Master into prison and unto death, yet such is the frailty and weakness of human nature, that when the trying hour cometh, like Simon Peter, we are ready to deny Him. But He, who is touched with a feeling and compassionate sense of our manifold infirmities, I trust saw that it was not wilful disobedience, but human weakness; and He who only knoweth the thoughts and intents of the heart,—yea, from whom 'the darkness hideth not, but the night shineth as the day,—the darkness and the light [being] both alike to Him,'—in adorable condescension and mercy, doth at seasons qualify his poor, dependent, humble followers, acceptably to breathe the aspiration, 'Lord, Thou knowest all things; Thou knowest that I love Thee.' However, I must honestly confess, that at the time I could not possibly devote myself to such an undertaking; for I am certain, that no earthly consideration whatever could have induced me to leave my beloved wife and tender children; but He who 'bloweth with His wind, and the waters flow'—at whose touch the mountains of opposition melt down and vanish—hath by His wonder-working power reduced my mind to a willingness to go, whensoever and wheresoever He is pleased to lead, and to do whatsoever He is pleased to call for.

Some time after this, as I was returning home late one evening, I had a sense of invitation after this manner: 'What if the Emperor of Russia should want a person for the superintendence of agriculture?'—at which time a willingness was begotten in my mind to go, if that should be the case; but when, or in what manner, this was to come to pass, was totally hidden from me. The frequent conflict of soul I had to pass through, none can conceive or have an idea of, but those who have been alike circumstanced; all which was permitted in infinite wisdom, for the subjection of the natural will, and is what I verily believe all must pass through, before they can in sincerity of heart say, 'Not my will, but Thine be done.'

In this manner I was prepared for this great event, and I cannot but record it, as a great and signal event in the life of a private individual; for, when a letter was received from Russia by Richard Phillips of London, a copy of which was sent to a Friend in Sheffield, and by him handed directly to me, it did not create any surprise, as I was in a state of preparation to receive it, and in daily expectation of something important coming to pass."

A visit, preparatory to the removal of his family to the vicinity of Petersburg, was made by Daniel Wheeler towards the close of the Sixth month, 1817. At this time he was introduced to the Prince Galitzin. . . . "For this interview," he says, "I had little time to spare for preparations, but had not many to make, having no clothes but what I landed in, my

luggage having been detained at the custom-house. I was accordingly conducted to the splendid mansion of the Prince, the entrance and marble staircase of which were well lined with attendants; in whose countenances surprise and anger were evidently depicted, at my assurance in keeping on my hat. We waited a short time in an open gallery, as the Prince was engaged; and took a turn into a spacious room, the walls of which were hung with pictures of all the imperial family of Russia, from the first to the last. In a short time a messenger came to say that the Prince was at liberty; when we were ushered into his apartment, of ample size. The Prince came forward, and met us in a very courteous manner; and on —— introducing me, he took me by the hand, and we retired to the back part of the room, and sat down at the end of a writing-table. He asked many questions, with great affability, in Russian; my companion interpreting betwixt us. Amongst others, he inquired what family I had, which being answered, he wished to know whether I would bring them all with me, if I came to reside in Russia. I said, 'Yes; I should not leave a hoof behind;' at which he seized my hand, and expressed his satisfaction. He then inquired how I should do, as there was no place of worship for me, no meeting, no society — how was that? I told him the worship of Almighty God was not confined either to time or place; that it is neither in this mountain, nor at Jerusalem; but in every place incense should be offered to His name, and a pure offering. After

pausing a little, he desired the sentence might be thoroughly explained to him. He then seemed quite to understand it, bowing his head in a reverent manner, and appeared to ponder over it. In the midst of this, I found my mind drawn into silence; but the Prince kept asking question after question, as if afraid of losing time: my answers were now very short; and at last I endeavoured to explain to my companion the situation I was in, but could not make him understand me. The conversation then turned to agriculture, and the soil of the neighbourhood, and to the Emperor; but as a burden still remained with me, I cannot recollect all he said, or what answers I made him. At last, we rose from our seats as with one accord; but before the Prince had time to bid me farewell in his way, I found my time was come; and I was enabled to declare unto him the everlasting foundation,—even Christ Jesus, the rock of ages,—who was 'to the Jews a stumbling-block, and to the Greeks foolishness;' but to them that obey His gospel inwardly revealed in the secret of their hearts, Christ crucified, the power of God, and the wisdom of God unto salvation. As I stopped at the end of every sentence, my companion interpreted, as if he had been accustomed to the work, and might have known what he was going to do. After we had finished, we stood like statues for a short time; and on my moving, as if I was at liberty, the Prince took me by the hand, saying: 'Although our languages are different, the language of the Spirit is the same.' He held my hand till we got near the door, when I

bade him farewell, and departed, comparatively as light as a feather. I cannot but admire how I was guided; for in delivering what was upon me to the Prince, at the end of every sentence all was taken from me, as if I should have nothing farther to say; but when —— had had sufficient time to interpret, then a supply was again vouchsafed. Whereas, if I could have proceeded, as it were, without stopping, I should have overpowered the interpreter, and the work would have been marred altogether. Thus the blind are guided in ways that they know not, and in paths that they have not seen; but truly the pillars of my tabernacle were mightily shaken. May I ever be preserved in that humility through which alone the grateful heart can bless His holy name, 'who redeemeth our lives from destruction, and crowneth us with loving kindness and tender mercies!'"

A few weeks later, he received a message that the Emperor was prepared to meet him at the lodgings of the Prince. He was conducted, at the appointed time, with much ceremony, to the apartment of the Emperor, who took him by the hand, and invited him to be seated. "I was not, however," says D. Wheeler, "quite ready to sit down; for the salutation arose in my heart of 'Grace, mercy, and peace be multiplied from God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, upon the noble Emperor,' etc. As I proceeded, I took off my hat, and the Emperor stood quite still until I had finished, when we both sat down. He had several questions to ask, and expressed his surprise and satisfaction at the manner in which I had

been led into Russia. He mentioned my memorial, and I think touched upon every particular head distinctly, and said he agreed to the whole. I then gave him a paper I had ready in my pocket-book, which brought the peculiar principles of our Society into view: this he read, and questioned me about all of them, which gave time to clear myself fully — I had a good deal to say to him on silent waiting — I remember my last words were the expression of a desire that attended my mind, 'that when time shall rob thee of thy earthly crown, an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled — a crown immortal — may be thy happy portion.' He held my hand fast in his for some time, and did not utter another word."

Having entered into an agreement with the Emperor, Daniel Wheeler returned to England to make the necessary preparation; and embarked again for Russia, with his family and assistants, in the Sixth month of 1818. After a favourable voyage, they landed, and were soon after settled in the habitation provided on the banks of the river Neva, in the vicinity of Petersburg. During the next long and darksome winter, they were often cheered in their lonely dwelling by the visits of William Allen and Stephen Grellet, who were then engaged on a religious mission to Russia, and remained several months in Petersburg, being there diligently occupied in promoting the introduction of scriptural instruction into the public schools, under the sanction of the Emperor Alexander.

In a letter to a Friend in England, D. Wheeler

says respecting them: "They have had a narrow path to tread in, yet are well satisfied with their labours here, though they have been in a different way from what is customary with those who move on such errands; they have truly been led in paths that they knew not, and in ways they had not seen, to their own admiration, and to the praise of the great and excellent Name. They left us ten days ago, with minds full of peace, beloved and regretted by all who had the happiness to become acquainted with them. The stream of gospel love which was at seasons permitted to flow, when channels were open to receive it, has made, I believe, an impression on the minds of some which will never be obliterated, and which has clearly evinced 'whose servants they are.' They were, I think, of all men the most fit to move in such a work, in such a place, and under such circumstances. I saw them set off from the city just at the edge of dusk, in a covered sledge, in the midst of a heavy snow-storm."

CHAPTER VI.

AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENTS—ADDRESS TO BALBY MONTHLY MEETING — CONFERENCE WITH THE EMPEROR — GREAT FLOOD AT PETERSBURG — DEATH OF THE EMPEROR, AND ACCESSION OF HIS BROTHER NICHOLAS.

DURING the spring and summer of 1819, great progress was made in the improvement of the waste and marshy lands placed under the care of Daniel Wheeler. By skilful drainage and cultivation they were gradually covered with luxuriant crops. The Emperor and Empress visited them, and expressed their gratification. One who was asked about their improvement said: "If the Lord had not given the man wisdom to do it, it would have been a morass still."*

* These lands consisted chiefly of certain parcels in the immediate vicinity of Petersburg, the cultivation of which to private enterprise appeared impracticable, on account of their barrenness, or their marshy nature. At the time of D. Wheeler's departure, in 1832, about three thousand English acres were in full cultivation, on part of which fifteen farms had been established, varying in extent from 35 to 105 acres each. About 2700 acres more had been drained, the cultivation being either left in other hands, or was in progress when D. W. resigned his appointment. Besides the improvement thus effected in the neighbourhood of the capital, the most satisfactory evidence of the utility of the

It was the custom of the country to hold their principal markets on the First day of the week. Against this practice Daniel Wheeler made a decided stand, and would not suffer any business to be transacted on that day by those under his control. Meetings for Divine worship were regularly held on First and Fifth days; and, by correspondence, he continued his connection with the monthly meeting of Friends in England (Balby) of which he was a member.

The following is selected from one of these addresses to Balby Monthly Meeting: "The trumpet has often sounded amongst us, my dear friends; but the alarming sound of late waxeth stronger and stronger; sufficiently so, I trust, to arouse those who have long regardlessly heard it. I would fain dismiss this painful subject, but in attempting to do so, sadness covers my mind, and fear begins to show itself, lest I should be found wanting in my duty to any, if such there are, who have long been neglecting the great business of their lives, and, instead thereof, pursuing with avidity those things which perish with the using. Alas! what will be the situation of these in a day that is fast approaching, when the heavens shall depart as a scroll when it is rolled together; when every false delight will appear in its true colours, and nothing will be left for the poor mind to rest upon, not so much as a small island in the

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undertaking has been afforded by the extensive adoption of various implements and methods of culture heretofore unknown to Russia, and by the consideration which agriculture and rural economy in general had obtained.

midst of this sea of perplexity and trouble — not a single act of dedication to the Lord's righteous cause of Truth upon the earth to reflect upon, when those things that have occupied the heart will serve only as memorials of past folly. Let such be entreated by one who long hovered on destruction's brink, and who hath known the terrors of the Lord for sin and disobedience; and under a sense thereof, is now most earnestly desirous that others may take warning, and thereby shun the fatal snares which keep the soul in bondage and in darkness. Let such be persuaded to seek the Lord 'while he may be found,' and endeavour to redeem the past and precious time, — to acquaint themselves with God, and be at peace, — to come to the knowledge of Him in the secret of their own souls, who is 'the way, the truth, and the life,' — whom to know is life eternal; who willeth not the death of a sinner, but that all should repent, return, and live. Then let me beseech you, in the love of Him who died for us and rose again, for the peace of your never-dying souls, to accept the gracious invitation, 'be ye reconciled to God,' before it be too late, and the things that belong to your peace are hid for ever from your eyes.

There is another class to whom my attention is now turned, for whose best welfare I feel an affectionate and tender solicitude; in whose hearts the babe immortal hath been mercifully begotten, creating therein new desires and breathings after soul-sustaining food; whose spiritual eyes are in a good degree opened to behold the beauty and excellency that

dwell in the everlasting and unchangeable Truth. To you, my dear Friends, many of whom are young in years, my heart and pen are now directed, earnestly desiring your preservation in the alone path, that most assuredly leads to peace in this world, and in that which is to come; may nothing be suffered to turn you aside therefrom, but may you be strengthened stedfastly to contend for the like precious faith, which was once delivered to the saints — that inestimable gift of God, that life of the just, that substance of things hoped for and evidence of things not seen, 'without which it is impossible to please God,' and of which Christ Jesus is not only the holy author, but the blessed finisher. Here let us make a pause, lest any should spend their precious time, that treasure of eternal consequence, in vain. This most necessary and heavenly gift cannot be obtained from man, nor from the doctrines of any set of men. What saith the great apostle? — 'Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.' Have not all heard? Yes, verily, the blessed sound hath gone forth from sea to sea, from shore to shore, and from the river to the uttermost ends of the earth. But let none be misguided by an imposing appellation given, I sometimes fear by design, to the Holy Scriptures, styling them 'the Word of God.' Although the Holy Scriptures are replete with the most sublime truths—the book of books, wonderfully preserved from the earliest ages of time, 'given by inspiration of God,' and 'profitable for correction, for reproof, for instruction in righteousness, that the man

of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works,' and 'are able to make wise unto salvation,'—yet let us mark what follows,—it is 'through faith which is in Christ Jesus.' For some of you this explanation may not be needful, but for me it is safe. Faith cometh then by that all-creative Word which was with the Father before the worlds were; 'all things were made by Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made'—who in the beginning changed the wild chaos, when it was without form and void, into habitable earth—who spake, and the worlds were made; and it is by this Divine Word alone that we must all be changed from a state of nature to a state of grace, and renewed again into the heavenly image that man was in before he by transgression fell. Behold then the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last, the root and offspring of David, the bright and morning star! Behold the marvellous display of everlasting love! the all-powerful, saving Word, the blessed medium by which faith and hearing come, is nigh in the heart and in the mouth, as saith the apostle. Search, then, my dearly beloved Friends; seek, and I humbly pray the Father of mercies that you may be favoured to find. Be of good courage; humble yourselves before God; ask in the language of unceasing prayer, and you shall receive; knock, with earnest, faithful desires, and the door of boundless mercy shall be opened unto you. 'For every one that asketh, receiveth; and he that seeketh, findeth; and to him that knocketh, it

shall be opened.' Remember it is on you that the weight of the law and the testimony must devolve, when the faithful standard-bearers of the present day are numbered with the just of all generations; and that on your example greatly depends the future bias of the tender minds of the dear innocent little children. In so doing you will not only be a blessing to them, but they will bring down a blessing upon you; and the Lord Most High, in His infinite goodness and mercy, will bless you altogether.

With the salutation of that love which desireth the good of all,

I remain your affectionate friend,

D. W."

Under date Tenth month 3, 1821, he says: "I had a conference with the Emperor a short time since, and was never so much satisfied with any previous interview. He has passed through much conflict of mind within the last twelve months; the state of political affairs, and many other trying circumstances combined, have served to reduce him both in body and mind. A knowledge of his peculiar situation renders him, in my estimation, an object of commiseration and sympathy. Few, I am persuaded, are really aware of the difficulties by which he is encompassed, or of what he has to contend with; and when I consider the education he has had, and training up altogether, I am more than ever surprised that he should have any relish for serious things. He had been absent about ten months at the Congress; and on my telling him he had been a

long time away from his large family, he said: 'I have had a great deal to do. It is a very difficult thing to act for a nation, but I hope I have acted under God, and the measures I have taken I hope are approved by Him. I am encouraged to believe so, because not a drop of blood has been spilled. When the nations were in great distress and suffering during the late calamitous war, they then prayed to God; but they are like the Jews of old, they have now forgotten Him. There are societies of men in different places, who are disseminating bad principles under the cloak of bringing in Christianity: they are in many parts of Europe; they are every where.' I told him I had often thought of him, and that a petition had been raised in my heart on his account. 'Yes,' he said, 'and I have often thought of you; there has not been one day, not one day, but I have thought of you and of Messrs. Allen and Grellet, and always felt myself united to you three in spirit.'

Previously to this conversation, we sat down in silence before the Lord; and in the course of our sitting, my mouth was opened to declare unto him the goodness of God, and His great mercy, variously displayed to the children of men; and to speak of the precious promises which the humble heart only can sensibly partake of. After which, we continued our sitting until I had cleared my mind a second time; in this I had to recite the invitation of the dear Master, 'Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden,' etc. After having sat some time in silence, feeling myself at liberty, I told him my

mind was relieved; when he gave me his hand, and attempted to describe his feelings, but was unable to utter any thing, except 'I have felt it,' laying his hand on his heart: I never saw him so brought down before. He stayed with us, I think, nearly three hours, and then left us in an affectionate manner, saying, 'I must leave you. I hope this is not the last time that I shall come; remember me in your prayers.' I attended him to his carriage, and as it drove off he said, 'God bless you!' Our large family Bible lay in one of the rooms; on seeing it he opened it, and readily turned to the 119th Psalm, which he said he had read that morning. He had a copy of the Scriptures in the carriage, which he always carries with him. My mind was so covered with sadness during the remainder of the day, and at intervals long afterwards, that my dear wife said she thought I must have said too little or too much to the Emperor. I told her, no; I felt satisfied as to that; but I could not help lamenting that such a man should be in such a situation."

Sickness visited the dwelling of Daniel Wheeler in the winter of 1822–3. His wife and son continuing to be invalids, it was determined, in the ensuing summer, that they should return for a time to England, accompanied by his daughters. This was a severe trial, "as in the bosom of my family," he says, "was to be found all that could afford me gratification or comfort. With them about me, I had every thing I could wish for or desire in this state of mutability.

But I trust I have in some degree learned in all states to be content. There is — and, without any inclination to boast, I believe I may say I know there is — a soul-solacing presence to be felt in a retired and lonely mansion, as well as in a place where large assemblies crowd, which, unbounded and unlimited by time and space, extends to every clime, to every place, to every heart — and oh! saith my soul, in humble prayer, may it be felt by us all! That all our hearts may be so cleansed, so prepared and purified from every defilement, as to be in constant readiness to receive the heavenly guest."

They returned to Russia in the Fifth month, 1824. In the Eleventh month of that year there was an awful inundation at Petersburg, which is thus described: "On the 7th inst., the inhabitants of Petersburg experienced the most awful visitation that has ever occurred within the memory of the oldest person living, by a deluge, which threatened for several hours the destruction of the city and suburbs. A dreadful tempest came on during the night of the 6th from the south-west, and continued to rage with unabated fury nearly the whole of the next day. Two days previously, an unusual roaring of the sea had been noticed about the head of the Gulf of Finland, and at Cronstadt. On the morning of the 7th, the sea began to rise, and shortly afterwards to push its waves into the heart of the city. The people at first supposed it would only be one of the floods which have frequently occurred, and manifested no particular alarm; but before noon they became con-

vinced of the necessity of flying for their lives. The road we live on exhibited a scene of terror and dismay not easy to describe; every one anxious to save himself and his cattle. As our situation is somewhat higher than the city itself, we had many applications for food for the cattle, and shelter, which of course we were glad to comply with. Our neighbourhood was protected from sharing in the general calamity by the bank of the Ligofsky canal, which is raised above the regular surface of the country; but from the upper part of the house we could see over this bank, which discovered to us the city standing as it were in the open sea.

The water continued to rise until three P. M., when the wind shifted to the north-west, and, although its violence continued, it prevented the water from rising any higher. At that time the water was twelve feet deep in the main street on Vasily's Island. Buildings consisting of only one story were of course filled, and the frightened occupants obliged to take refuge upon their roofs. In the afternoon we made some attempt to go towards the city, but found it unsafe to try much farther than the bank of the canal just mentioned. The land under our care, between this and the city, was nearly all under water, so that we could hear nothing that night of the distress which prevailed there.

By the morning of the 8th the water had subsided so much that it could only be seen about the low places; in the afternoon I went off, intending to see how our friend Sarah Kilham had fared, but after

passing the barrier, I was compelled to return, as all the bridges were carried away by the force of the water. The 9th (a First day) arrived, and brought only our dear friend Thomas Shillitoe* to meeting, who, although he knew enough of the general suffering to prevent his speaking for a short interval on first coming into the room, yet knew almost nothing in comparison of what has since been unfolded. The part where dear Thomas lives stands pretty high, but in those streets the water stood only eighteen inches below the lamps. For three hours, a general silence prevailed in the city; and from Thomas Shillitoe's windows, which command a view of four streets, nothing was to be seen but one poor struggling horse, and the police rowing about in boats to see where any assistance could be rendered.

Our land, before hinted at, is covered over with timber, boats, dead horses, cows, barrels of fish, crosses from the grave-yards, parts of coffins, and other articles, and, I regret to add, with many human bodies, drowned by this disastrous flood; one is a female with a child under each arm, which she was endeavouring to save.

It is now Third day night: I have been both to-day and yesterday in the city, and have heard such accounts of accumulated suffering as are impossible to be set forth. I fear the number of lives lost will amount to ten thousand, and the loss of cattle and property is estimated at 20,000,000 rou-

* Then on a religious visit in Russia.

bles (£800,000 sterling). Whole squadrons of cavalry horses were drowned in their stables, and many saved by being led up stairs. One Englishman, a horse dealer, has lost all his horses.

When the water began to rise above its usual height in floods, the Emperor went in person, and ordered the sentinels away from the different posts. When the palace became surrounded by water many feet deep, he appeared with the Empress on the balconies, encouraging the people to exertion, and offering rewards to those who would endeavour to save life, wherever he saw any particular danger; by this many were saved who would otherwise have been inevitably lost. A subscription has been begun to-day for the benefit of the sufferers, to which the Emperor has given 1,000,000 roubles (£40,000 sterling); and he has ordered the military governor to take care that the poor people are furnished with food. Yesterday it was difficult to procure bread, as the bakers' ovens were mostly deluged by the water; to-day there is a supply. All the sugars at the custom-house are melted, and all goods that will damage with water are spoiled. The shops in many places were full up to the ceilings: oats which have been under water in the stores are selling at two and three roubles (from 20 to 30 pence) the chetvert of five English bushels. The inhabitants and houses of three villages near the Gulf are, with their cattle, said to be entirely swept away. The Emperor has been to-day to several places, where the greatest suffering has occurred, to devise relief for the people.

However affecting this visitation may appear, I cannot but view it with a hope that it may yet prove a blessing in disguise to those that remain; and I very much desire that it may have its proper and lasting effect upon all our minds, that so all may repent, and turn unto Him with whom is mercy and plenteous redemption, lest a worse and more terrible warning should follow. There is, I think, reason to fear that another woe will succeed that which has now passed over—I mean the occurrence of pestilential disorders, which the dampness of the houses may bring on, particularly if intense frost should succeed before they are in some degree dry and aired: last night it froze hard; at present there is less frost, but with the appearance of more snow.

Our friend Sarah Kilham is likely to suffer less than we feared, although her furniture was floating in her parlour. Her day scholars were in the house when the water rose, so that she was obliged to lodge them as she could.

We scarcely know what to conclude about our friends at sea, as so much depends upon the situation of the different ships: we hear that some have been wrecked, and others have returned to Cronstadt. This island has been entirely under water.

In the midst of the general distress, we have been permitted to partake of peace and quietness, of which we seem altogether unworthy. I sometimes fear we are not making an adequate return for the numerous comforts and blessings we enjoy; and were it not to acknowledge with gratitude the loving-kindness and

mercy which surrounded us, I should willingly omit saying any thing about ourselves; all belonging to us seem to shrink into nothingness when we behold the surrounding scene of woe and misery."

Near the close of 1825, the Emperor Alexander died at Taganrog, in the south of Russia. His close appears to have been a peaceful one, and the hope was entertained that he had exchanged an earthly crown for one immortal, that will never fade away. He had reigned nearly twenty-five years. The Russians say he was too mild, too good for them. The Grand-Duke Constantine having renounced the crown, his brother Nicholas was proclaimed Emperor.

These changes do not appear to have altered in any respect the position of Daniel Wheeler; and the extended circle of operations soon after rendered it needful for him to remove to Shoosharry, a more distant and lonely place, on the margin of a great bog, his son William remaining to overlook the work in the neighbourhood of his former residence.

Here they seldom saw the face of any visitor; but, he says, "notwithstanding the dreariness of our abode, I should be deficient in gratitude if I were to omit saying that to myself it is a peaceful retreat. We have been here about four months, and I do not recollect having been permitted to enjoy so much solid peace and comfort since my lot has been cast in this land, as hath been at seasons graciously vouchsafed within the wooden walls of our solitary mansion; and I believe my wife has partaken equally with myself in this comforting and precious privi-

lege. I often feel a longing desire that a path would clearly open, which would lead to a peaceful departure from this our exile; but I trust that such a desire is never cherished, or dwelt upon, without being accompanied by a willingness to submit, in humble resignation, to the Divine disposal of Him who knows what is best for us; who knows our frame that we are but dust, and who pities our weakness. If I know my own heart, no earthly motive, no plans for the future, induce a desire to be released from this country; but I do most earnestly desire that the remainder of my days, whether many or few, may be devoted to the glory of God, and the exaltation of my dear Redeemer's kingdom in the hearts of mankind."

CHAPTER VII.

VISITS ENGLAND — RELIGIOUS SERVICE — RETURNS TO RUSSIA — CHOLERA AT PETERSBURG — ADDRESS TO YORK QUARTERLY MEETING — RESIGNS HIS APPOINTMENT IN RUSSIA — SAILS FOR ENGLAND.

In 1830 the health of his wife having again failed considerably, it was advised that she should pass the ensuing winter in England. He concluded to accompany her, and while in his native land applied for and obtained a certificate to visit, on a religious account, parts of Devon, Cornwall, and the Scilly Isles.

One of his meetings, during this visit, was with a congregation at Devonport, almost entirely composed of persons connected with the seafaring life, and their families. "My heart," he says, "was greatly enlarged towards them, as companions and shipmates in the voyage of life; having the Lord God, merciful and gracious, and abundant in goodness and truth, for our Commander; and an all-sufficient Saviour and Holy Redeemer for a heavenly pilot, who would never leave His vessel, but would safely conduct us through all the dangers and difficulties of time, and would remain with us through the never-ending ages of eternity. Towards the close I had to call the attention of the meeting to myself,

as an example for their encouragement, that none need despair; for in me they might behold a living monument of the Lord's everlasting mercy, and the triumph of Divine grace over human nature in its most depraved state; in one who, like themselves, had been cradled on the ocean — whom the everlasting Arm had ofttimes been stretched out to save, when the briny wave had nearly prevailed against him."

Their return to Russia, in 1831, was under the most appalling circumstances. The cholera had appeared in a most virulent form at Petersburg and its vicinity. The air, as they approached the coast, was evidently tainted by the pestilence, and the recollection arose of the dear children they had left, to whom they dared look only with a trembling hope of again beholding them in life. A remarkable circumstance was permitted to cheer them. The captain of their ship had been told, shortly after they sailed, that D. Wheeler had regularly arrived in Russia on one particular day. As the wind long continued contrary, there seemed at this time no probability of it; and he sneeringly told D. W. that his calculation had for once failed. Soon after, a strong and favouring gale sprang up, which continued increasing in strength, bearing on the noble vessel with such speed, that they arrived on the very day named. The hardy captain exclaimed, in reference to this: "There is nothing but the Almighty for it, at any rate!" "To me," says D. Wheeler, "this had a promising and strengthening effect; it was a pleasing

coincidence, bringing to remembrance many great mercies and favours in times that are past, but now signally to be commemorated with admiration, gratitude, and praise to Him who 'commandeth the morning and causeth the day-spring to know its place.' What could the possession of the whole world have done for us in this day of distress? The 'secret tabernacle of the Most High' was the only hiding place — the only pavilion of safety and refuge. I would gladly impart to my dear friends a share of the marvellous loving kindness and tender mercy which were so graciously displayed for our relief and consolation on this memorable day; but language is utterly incapable of conveying it — words cannot set it forth. I think that nothing short of being placed in an exactly similar situation could make it be felt and understood to its full extent. I cannot help craving that all my beloved friends were brought by any means under a similar state of feeling — not a mole-hill to rest upon, humbled in the dust. How softened every heart! — how tearful every eye! — the Lord alone exalted! This is what I want all to witness for themselves, that they may indeed witness the power of everlasting love to comfort and strengthen their hearts, and enable them to assert, in similar language with the great apostle to the Gentiles, and from the same heartfelt knowledge, 'we glory in tribulation.'"

On landing, a new law in relation to passengers' luggage made it needful for D. Wheeler to go to a particular department of the custom-house, where he

was accosted by a stranger with a letter, who inquired if he was the person to whom it was directed. It proved to be from his son William, conveying the joyful intelligence that the children had wholly escaped the ravages of the awful disease, which was then considered at its height — one hundred and fifteen having died that day in the small town of Cronstadt, where they landed.

When they reached Petersburg, instead of the dense crowd usually at the wharf, only three or four persons were to be seen, and not a single carriage for hire; scarcely anybody was to be seen in the streets, and in some the grass was growing. Eight hundred were said to have died that day in the city. The ignorance of the people aggravated the distress. As the skill of the doctors was completely baffled, they were accused of being the authors of it. The rabble broke into some of the hospitals, and in one instance caused the death of the physician, by throwing him out of an upper window. The imprudent and arbitrary measures of the police increased their fury. Every person whom the officers suspected of having the complaint was forced to the hospital. One of the workmen of D. Wheeler was taken up, charged with having the disease. In vain he declared he was in perfect health; he was taken to the hospital, and forthwith treated as a patient, but was released from his perilous position by the multitude getting possession of the hospital, when he availed himself of the opportunity of escape, and returned to his work. At one of the military colonies a

dreadful affray took place, arising from a similar cause, in which the soldiers suspected their own officers: it is reported that a considerable number of the officers were killed. It really seemed as if the most trifling cause was enough 'to turn every man's hand against his fellow.'

In the First month of 1832, he addressed his friends of York Quarterly Meeting, in England, as follows:

"*Near Petersburg, First Month 25th*, 1832.

Under a renewed sense of the Lord's manifold and tender mercies, which, to His praise and to His glory be it spoken, have compassed us about 'as with a shield,' since we last saw each other; my soul feels bound thus to recognise the good Hand that has led us, and to salute my dear brethren and sisters in a feeling of that love which cannot change, earnestly desiring that 'grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, may be multiplied to them'—causing the hearts of the faithful to rejoice, and joy, gladness, and thanksgiving to abound amongst them.

Although far separated from each other as to the outward, yet such is the glorious privilege of the least living member of the true Church universal, that nothing can separate or prevent us from standing fast in the one Holy Spirit, striving together in one mind for the faith of the gospel, 'till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.' For

assuredly, my beloved Friends, a day of trial is approaching, yea, hastening upon the nations, when nothing short of an individual, heartfelt knowledge of Him in whom we profess to believe, will stand unshaken by the storm.

Great is the solicitude I feel on behalf of our highly-favoured religious Society, that it may be preserved immovable upon this its ancient and sure foundation, Jesus Christ — 'Christ in you the hope of glory' — which never did and never will fail those who in simplicity believe, and faithfully build thereon, nothing doubting. By diligently maintaining the watch in that holy light bestowed in redeeming love on every individual of the human race, the snares of the insidious adversary, although laid in the most insinuating manner, will be detected and broken; the specious guise of a false religion itself will be penetrated. This has assuredly slain its thousands, who, dazzled and distracted by creaturely activity and excitement, have thus been corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. 'Watch ye, therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.' Blessed and holy injunction — never out of season — never more needed!

We may feel lamentably conscious of unworthiness, weakness, and incapacity, from our manifold backslidings, to come up 'to the help of the Lord against the mighty,' or to unveil the subtle workings of the mystery of iniquity to the sight of others

These feelings are painful, and how great is the need of circumspection under them, lest, in the impatience of our spirits, heightened as this too often is by the ill-advised example and counsel of those about us, we should attempt to stay the ark with unsanctified and unauthorized hands; or lest we should countenance to our own condemnation willings and runnings on the part of those with whom we may stand connected, which, however specious in themselves, nevertheless contribute most essentially and insidiously to promote the kingdom of anti-Christ, already, alas! extensive in the earth.

Frequently am I brought under appalling apprehensions for us, as a people, sought out and chosen of the Lord; for, had we followed the footsteps of our honourable predecessors in religious profession, who bore the burden and heat of a day of deep suffering, in the faithful support, in their original brightness, of those principles which they transmitted to us, — the spiritual beauty of the gospel Church might have shone forth, even through us, with a splendour which the different professors of the Christian name could neither have gainsayed nor resisted. And it is awfully impressed upon my mind — I might almost say, it is given me awfully to believe — that if the 'world, and the things of the world,' which 'are not of the Father,' had not stolen away our hearts from His love, the glad tidings of that gospel, which is indeed 'the power of God unto salvation,' would, long ere this, have been proclaimed in remote, in heathen portions of the habitable globe,

by instruments raised up from amongst us, duly prepared and clothed with the true baptising authority of the Lord Jesus, whose 'inheritance is the heathen, and the uttermost parts of the earth His possession.' He alone can endue His messengers with 'power from on high,' in His name to open the eyes of the spiritually blind, to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God. Mark, then, the awful consequences of our short-comings as a people; and let us tremble, lest God should visit our iniquity upon us, and the awful language should be sounded in our ears: 'The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation or people bringing forth the fruits thereof.' 'Watch ye, therefore,' and remember 'and pray always;' for 'the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God:' what then 'shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?'

'Fear, and the pit, and the snare are upon thee, O inhabitant of the earth!' from which nothing but a Saviour's all-powerful arm can extricate and deliver. All are involved in the momentous consequences; yet it is an individual work, and admits of no delay. Then, dear Friends of every age and of every class, let us hasten to it in earnest; let us 'humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God,' even to the state of little children, and turn inward to His pure unflattering witness, which cannot deceive or be deceived. Let us accomplish a diligent search, and patiently examine how far those indispensable conditions are submitted to on our part, without which

none can follow the blessed Jesus. Where is that self-denial and the daily cross He enjoins? Are we denying ourselves those gratifications of time and sense which nourish sin, and keep alive in us the evil propensities of fallen nature? Have we taken up that daily cross, and offered all to Him 'who died for us and rose again?' It is not giving up this or that particular thing that will suffice—a full surrender of the will must be made to Him, 'whose right it is to reign.' Let none plead for disobedience in what they may think little things, on the ground of their being so. If such they really are, they are the more easily parted with; and our tenacity in wishing to reserve them assuredly indicates that they are of more importance in our practical estimation than we may be disposed to allow. Let no man deceive himself—unqualified obedience is the necessary condition of discipleship. Without it we cannot be consistent followers of our Lord; and if not followers of Him, we cannot serve Him, be where He is, nor learn of Him that meekness and lowliness of heart which draw down heavenly blessings and regard, and which He alone can bestow.

As the sorrowful declension which has so marred the beauty of our religious Society, may be traced to departing from this heavenly indwelling principle of light, life, and love; so our restoration to primitive purity can only be effected by returning unto the Lord with full purpose of heart, in the depths of humility and self-abasement — yea, my Friends, nothing less than this will do. We must deny our-

selves, take up our daily cross, and follow Him who is 'holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens'—ever mighty to save and to deliver; and who will deliver out of every distress the soul that in sincerity seeketh Him.

Come, brother; come, sister; come, all my dear Friends; let no earthly consideration whatever be suffered to hinder this important work; for 'the night is far spent, the day is at hand; let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light,' that we may no longer bring forth fruit whereof we are ashamed — for the end of those things is death — but that we may 'be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might, to stand against the wiles of the devil.' 'For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.' Let us 'pray always, with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, watching thereunto with all perseverance;' striving together in one mind for the faith of the gospel, even for that faith which worketh by love, purifieth the heart, and giveth victory over the world. Thus shall we indeed be found with 'our loins girded about, and our lights burning, we ourselves like unto men who wait for their lord, that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately;' even unto Him who said, 'Behold I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to

him, and will sup with him, and he with me.' Then 'lift up your heads, O ye gates! even lift them up, ye everlasting doors! and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory.'

In the love of the gospel, I remain your affectionate friend and brother,

DANIEL WHEELER."

The time was now near at hand when D. Wheeler believed it to be his duty to relinquish his engagement with the Russian government. By the direction of the Prince Galitzin, a certificate was ordered to be prepared in English, which was signed on behalf of the Emperor, for the satisfaction of his friends. The Prince parted from him with much affection, and stipulated that he should write to him, saying: "What is good for your soul is good for mine."

The way was clearly seen and opened for his return to England; but, he says, "without the slightest prospect of any settled residence there: from the impressions which have been sealed on my mind, by day and night, for many months past, very different scenes are open before me." His eldest son succeeded him in the management of the work, and he embarked for England in the Seventh month, 1832.

From the uncertainty attending his future movements, it was decided that his wife and family should remain for the present at their Russian

abode. In a letter dated on the passage he says: "At times I feel as a lonely sparrow on the house-top, or as the rambling swallow without a home, and still only preparing to take flight for distant climes, while pressing onward farther and farther from all that I hold dear in this transitory world."

CHAPTER VIII.

PROSPECT OF A RELIGIOUS VISIT TO THE SOUTH SEA ISLANDS — DEATH OF HIS WIFE AND SEVERE ILLNESS OF HIS CHILDREN — DEATH OF HIS SON WILLIAM AND DAUGHTER JANE — PROSPECT OF RELIGIOUS SERVICE IN NORTH AMERICA.

In the Ninth month, 1832, he attended Balby Monthly Meeting, of which he was a member, and informed his friends of the prospect which had been presented to his view of visiting, in the love of the gospel, the inhabitants of some of the islands of the Pacific Ocean, New South Wales, and Van Diemen's Land. He stood up with the words: 'The cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?' "Eventually," he says in a letter to his wife, "I laid the whole affair fully before the meeting: a very solemn and solid interval succeeded. I warned the meeting not to let affectionate sympathy bias their minds, and recommended that all should endeavour to sink down to the precious gift in every heart, that so a right judgment might be come to; seeing it was a subject in which so much was implicated, not only as regarded myself and the Society at large, but the Truth itself. At length a general expression of concurrence and near sympathy broke forth, from the head to the uttermost skirts of the garment, as the

ointment poured forth, which draws down the heavenly blessing. Many vocal petitions ascended on the occasion, as well as, I believe, universal mental ones. It was indeed a memorable day, and one in which I most earnestly desire you may all be permitted to share, though far distant, through the influence of that Almighty Power which is omnipotent and omnipresent." A certificate was prepared for him, which was subsequently approved and endorsed by the Quarterly Meeting of York, and by the morning meeting of ministers and elders held in London. As it is proposed to give an extended account of this visit, in the love of the gospel, to the isles afar off, in a subsequent part of this volume, no farther allusion will be now made to it, except to state that he embarked on the 13th of the Eleventh month, 1833.

The affecting reference to his feeling as a sparrow alone, which he made in a letter written to his beloved wife on board the vessel, after what proved their final parting in this world, seemed as a foretaste of that keen affliction he was soon to experience.

Whilst confined, in the First month of 1833, by indisposition at Earlham, he received the sad intelligence of the death of his wife and the serious illness of three of his children. Alluding to the gradual unfolding of these solemn tidings by a kind friend, he says: "Who can picture my distress and anguish of soul when the awful reality was discovered? But the everlasting arms of mine Almighty

Helper were underneath to bear me up, that the waves of affliction should not overwhelm beyond the decreed limits, nor infringe upon the margin of mercy and compassion. After a time I was enabled to say: 'It is a bitter cup; but I accept it at the hand of the Lord, for I am sure there is a blessing at the bottom of it.'"

His children recovered; and the following letter to two of them is touchingly descriptive of the Christian resignation with which he endured this great bereavement:

"*First Month* 19*th*, 1833.

MY DEAREST CHARLES AND JANE:

——— When I quitted Shoosharry, I thought I had given up much; and when fairly away from Cronstadt, I seemed to have parted with every thing in this world; but I have since sorrowfully found that there remained ties which bound the soul to earth, which were yet to be dissolved before the sacrifice was complete. The visitation was so unexpected and sudden, that for a time every effort to bear up against the overwhelming reality seemed altogether unavailing. It is indeed a cup exceeding in bitterness all that had previously been handed, filling my heart with anguish, indescribable and irresistible. Yet, blessed be the name of the Lord God of heaven and earth for ever! He who had commanded the storm was, in gracious condescension and compassionate mercy, pleased to rebuke its raging billows, and to bear up my helpless head above them all, enabling me to glorify His holy

name 'in the fires' of this baptism of suffering, to His own praise. And although the dispensation is altogether incomprehensible at present, yet I firmly believe the merciful design of the Divine Will, as it is patiently abode under, will be more and more developed to our understandings, and will not fail to raise in us a grateful tribute of thanksgiving. 'What I do, thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter;' and O! that we may all be found worthy to be entrusted with the heavenly secret, whether it be to be laid up in our own hearts, or to be declared to many.

When I have been led to contemplate the suspense and anxiety which my long silence must have unavoidably occasioned to your dear mother, when more distantly separated by mighty oceans, together with the expectation of my being amongst barbarous nations, and exposed to various hardships — how often have I desired that opportunities might occur for me to send, at frequent intervals, some even short account of my safety and preservation, that she might be comforted from time to time, and not be permitted to droop with hope again and again deferred! — feeling a willingness to suffer myself, and to trust her and my precious family to the tender care of our heavenly Father, though months and months might pass away without a probability of hearing of or from them, — if only they might be cheered and animated now and then with but a gleam. But whilst human nature deeply feels, and every chord of tenderness and affectionate remembrance vibrates

at the recollection of what we have all lost; yet my soul doth secretly rejoice and magnify my good and gracious God, in humble thankfulness, that her lamb-like spirit is now spared this painful dispensation, and that the suffering will be only mine; and, mingled with many other tribulations which may yet await me, serve to fill up the allotted measure, in which I humbly trust I shall be permitted to glory, from the certain knowledge that tribulation worketh patience and experience and that hope 'which maketh not ashamed' nor afraid, 'because the love of God is shed abroad in the heart.' I think the finger of the Divine Artist may already be traced in the present afflictive dispensation, as regards us all, but more particularly in the effects which have already resulted both to thee and to dear Jenny, giving you to see, in a remarkable manner and in wondrous mercy, that every thing in this world is but vanity, and will most certainly end in vexation of spirit, if we have not an interest in the Saviour, and if destitute of that knowledge which alone can save. It is, therefore, my most humble prayer, that you may both endeavour to the utmost to keep near to that Power which hath so graciously opened your understandings to perceive His tender mercy and loving-kindness, which is better than life, in thus gathering your beloved mother into everlasting rest and peace, removing her from the troubles of time to the enduring riches of eternity, in holy quietness, because death had lost its sting and the grave its victory. I am very sure that you must both have had convincing

proof of the necessity of seeking after an acquaintance with the precious gift of God, which is so mercifully vouchsafed in measure by Christ Jesus in every heart; and which is sufficient, if attended to, to restore every son and daughter of Adam from a state of nature to a state of grace, into the heavenly image from which man by transgression fell.

I think you must both have seen how insignificant this world and all that belongs to it appear, when the pale herald of the grave hovers around us. Nothing short of that Divine power which thus showeth us these things, can prepare and purify us for an 'inheritance undefiled, and that fadeth not away;' and be assured of this, that however homely this unflattering Witness may appear — though it seem but 'as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground'— and when perceived there is no beauty to render Him desirable to the unregenerate mind; yet this, my dear children, is nothing less than a manifestation of the Spirit 'of the Lord of life and glory, which is given to every man to profit withal;' and well will it be for us if we are profiting thereby, and faithfully occupying therewith. This Holy Spirit hath long been oppressed and afflicted in all our hearts, whilst we have been employed in perishing pursuits, and altogether regardless of Him or his secret touches and reproofs, until perhaps cast upon a sick bed, or brought into a situation where His voice will be heard. It is to this power that we must be willing to turn, and it is by this power only that we can be saved, seeing it is the Spirit of Him our dear Re-

deemer, whom 'God hath highly exalted, and given Him a name which is above every name; that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father,' either in mercy or in judgment. And O! saith my soul, that our confession may be to His wondrous love and mercy, and not in the acknowledgment of His just judgments for our hard-heartedness and unbelief in the day of His visitation, wherein he would have gathered us 'as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings,' and we would not. For true it is, that if we are willing to attend to this in-speaking, heart-searching voice, to turn at its reproofs, we shall find that they are full of instruction, and the way to life everlasting. It will not fail to show us the deceitfulness of sin, the sinfulness of sin, and the wages of sin, which is death. As we patiently abide under the turnings and overturnings of the Lord's hand thus upon us, however humbling and painful to the unsubjected mind, we shall indeed know the Saviour of the world in all His offices, not only as a convincer and reprover of sin through His Spirit, but as a purifier and cleanser from it; and as the great work of regeneration gradually advances, our spiritual eye will at last be opened to perceive and to look on Him whom we have so long pierced, and to mourn in godly sorrow unto unfeigned repentance not to be repented of. Then indeed shall we bow to His name, which is

His power, on the bended knees of contrition and self-abasedness, and be enabled from living and actual experience to say: 'I have heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear, but now mine eye seeth Thee; wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.' Here then is 'repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ,' whereby we forsake sin, and believe in the efficacy of that power which alone can save from it. Then indeed shall we become willing to confess Him before men, not being ashamed to acknowledge His power and His might, nor afraid of being thought His followers by the votaries of a world which 'lieth in wickedness;' but to boldly take up the cross—a daily cross to our own corrupt wills and inclinations—and follow Him whithersoever He may be pleased to lead, remembering for our comfort and encouragement His gracious declaration: 'Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of Man also confess before the angels of God; but he that denieth me before men shall be denied before the angels of God.' This indeed will be confessing to His name, in the belief of His power and in the hope of His mercy; and a bowing in earnest, in obedience to His holy will. But if, unhappily unwilling to bow the knee of our minds, we should stubbornly resist the offers of unutterable love and mercy, refusing to confess with the tongue 'that Jesus Christ is Lord, by the acknowledgment of His power in our hearts to save, and by submissive obedience to it, in the way of the cross, we shall one day find, to our indescribable

distress, when it is too late, and the language is uttered: 'He that is filthy, let him be filthy still.'

But although it is with me thus to write, yet my prayers are incessant on your behalf for better things, even things that accompany life and salvation, that mercy and truth may meet together; that righteousness and peace may kiss each other, in our heartfelt experience; which most assuredly will be the case, if the fault be not our own. We shall find that watchfulness, prayer, and fasting, are the Christian's strength, his safe retreat, and never-failing weapons of defence; even a constant watch over all our thoughts, tracing from whence they spring; for thoughts are the origin of all our words and actions. As we thus maintain the watch, we shall soon begin to groan, being burdened with the frailty and helplessness of human nature; which unavoidably, and happily for us, cannot fail to incite to prayer, though perhaps but in sighs and groanings which cannot be uttered; but which are accepted and recorded by Him who is a God ever hearing prayer, and who will in tender mercy strengthen us, if on our parts we are but willing to pray always, 'with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, watching thereunto with all perseverance.' This will almost imperceptibly lead us habitually to fast from the gratifying things of time and sense, which do but serve, however insignificant they may appear in the world's estimation, to prevent the sacrifice of the whole heart; and as nothing short of this will be accepted in the Divine sight, the enemy's purpose is still effected.

I have craved in the tenderest manner for you, that you may henceforth be preserved and strengthened in faithfulness to resist those things, whatever they be, that were burdensome to you when on a bed of sickness, the fruit of which is bitter indeed, and productive only of shame, remorse, and anguish of spirit. Let the time past suffice, and the future be employed not in living to ourselves, 'but unto Him who died for us and rose again.'"

He returned to England on the 1st of the Fifth month, 1838. During his absence in the southern seas, he received the afflicting account of the death of his son William, who was left in charge of the agricultural concern in Russia. It is said of him — "That his life had been marked by watchfulness and prayer, and a conscientious regard to the pointings of Divine Wisdom in the discharge of his religious duties, as well as by an active and diligent attention to his concerns in business: his end was eminently crowned with peace, and an humble and confiding trust in redeeming mercy." The account of his last days afforded his father great consolation and relief, and raised in his heart a tribute of humble thankfulness to the great Preserver of men, who indeed 'loveth his own unto the end.'

His daughter Jane also finished her course, and entered into rest. The reception of this added sorrow was truly overwhelming for a time, yet he says: "The mercy and goodness of our heavenly Father soon changed the strain of sorrow into that of adoration and thanksgiving, binding up all the wounds of

affliction in the healing virtue of His everlasting love; for her end had been truly peaceful; death was deprived of its sting, and the grave of its victory. Thus the eldest and the youngest of my flock have been gathered, since we left them, into the arms of everlasting mercy, whilst we are left a little longer in this vale of tears. May the Lord most High be graciously pleased to prepare us also, in the like manner, for the heavenly kingdom!"

Shortly after his arrival in his native land, he attended Balby Monthly Meeting, returning the certificates granted him five years and a half before. After making a statement of his gospel visit to the southern isles, he informed his friends that he no longer stood before them as one returning, but as one requesting a certificate to enable him to visit various parts of North America.

While pressing forward through stormy seas to the far-off islands of the Pacific, he had seen, in the unfoldings of the Divine Will, that after that service had been accomplished, another should be set before him to parts of the Western Hemisphere. By this his confidence in the Holy Author of his faith was strengthened, and he was supported in every season of trial and conflict.

The certificate was prepared and sanctioned by York Quarterly Meeting and by the Morning Meeting of Friends at London.

The drooping state of health of his son Charles, the faithful companion of his long journeyings, made the separation now required of him from his beloved

family more than ordinarily painful. "Truly," he says, "I had fainted if I had not believed, to see the loving-kindness of the Lord, and the greatness of His goodness which is laid up for them that fear Him, and that trust in Him before the sons of men." In another place he says: "Though human nature keenly felt the separation from, and would gladly remain in possession of its greatest earthly treasure, yet I did believe I could not promote the welfare of my beloved family in any manner so much, as by my own faithfulness to what I apprehended to be the duty required of me."

CHAPTER IX.

SAILS FOR NEW YORK — ATTENDS MANY MEETINGS OF FRIENDS — RETURNS TO ENGLAND — DEATH OF HIS SON CHARLES — AGAIN EMBARKS FOR AMERICA — ILLNESS AND DEATH AT NEW YORK.

He embarked from Liverpool on the 25th of Eleventh month, 1838, and arrived in New York on the 1st day of 1839. His journal records the attendance of many meetings among Friends in New York, New England, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and other parts. On one occasion, when the subject of meetings for Divine worship was brought to view, he says: "I had to declare, that if ever we suffered the righteous testimony to the teachings of that Divine grace which hath appeared to all men to fall to the ground, or be lowered by departure from a silent waiting upon God for the blessed influence of the Holy Spirit, to enable us to worship Him aright, — the glory would depart from our Israel, and nothing be left us but an empty name."

He also held public meetings in several seaport towns, in which he adverted to the great responsibility of those who had intercourse with the poor islanders of the South Seas. In one of these he delivered a message with which he had been charged

by Paofai and the principal chiefs of the island of Eimeo. "Go," he said, "to Britannia, and tell the people to have mercy upon us; and then go to America, and tell the people there to have mercy upon us; for it is these countries that send the poison (rum) amongst us."

Daniel Wheeler returned to England in the Tenth month, 1839, a few months before the peaceful close of his beloved son Charles. On reaching the bed-side of the dear invalid, he says: "I found him apparently in a far-advanced stage of consumption. The peaceful feeling that pervades the atmosphere around him is, I humbly trust, an earnest that the arms of everlasting mercy are open to receive him when the awful change shall come."

He often spoke of his own unworthiness, saying that his only dependence was on the mercy of God in Christ Jesus, and on this he seemed to rest without a sense of fear.

On one occasion he said to one of his brothers, "Heed not the world, nor the things thereof; I wish I had heeded it less;" and once in great bodily extremity he exclaimed, "Here is the end of pride!"

He was frequently engaged in fervent prayer for patience and support for the pardon of all his transgressions, and a release in the Lord's time. Being asked just before his close if he felt peaceful, he replied, "I feel no fear."

"On his placid countenance, some hours after his departure," says his father, "I saw to my unspeakable comfort that in the midst of death there was a

sweet angelic smile surpassing that of life; its loveliness none can describe."

His death took place on the 6th of the Second month, 1840, and on the 30th of the Third month following, Daniel Wheeler again embarked for New York. When about a week at sea, he took a severe cold, which rapidly increased to an alarming illness, under the prostrating influence of which he landed, and was immediately conveyed to the house of a kind friend. Here he received the most unremitting and tender care, and after a few weeks there appeared to be some improvement. On the 6th of the Fifth month he received a visit from his beloved friend Stephen Grellet, which proved an occasion of deep interest. His mind seemed to overflow with admiration of the goodness of his dear Lord and Master, which had constantly attended him in his various pilgrimages. He recapitulated briefly what had occurred since he left America, alluding to the consolation he received at the death of his beloved Charles, when he was made to rejoice in the midst of grief. He added: "The Lord is good to them that love and fear His name. Great things hath He done for me; things so wonderfully marvellous, that they would hardly be believed were I to tell of them. If I have experienced any shortness in my journey Zionward, it has been on my side, not the Lord's; for He has been faithful, and His promises have been and remain to be, yea and amen for ever. Whilst I was on shipboard, and thought by some of the passengers to be nigh unto death, how did the Lord appear for

my help and consolation! and since I have been in this chamber, how has He appeared for my comfort in the night season! and I have been enabled to sing hymns of praise and thanksgiving unto Him. When the ship made her soundings, I made my soundings on that Rock whose foundation is from everlasting to everlasting. I saw that I should be safely landed, though extremely weak in body; and I was enabled to say, should the Lord see meet to raise me up, and strengthen me still to show forth His wonderful works to the children of men, or cut the work short in righteousness: 'Thy will, O God, not mine, be done.' I do not see how the end will be."

On the 26th of the Fifth month he became more poorly, and continued after this rapidly to fail. On one occasion he was enabled to declare that "he had the same faith that had been with him through life, founded upon the gospel of Christ; and which enabled him to say, with the apostle: 'Nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.'"

For several days previous to his death, he took very little nourishment, as from the state of his mouth and throat he could not swallow without difficulty. On one occasion his attendant urging him, and saying she thought he stood in need of it, he replied: "I think not; and when there is need, my heavenly Father will enable me to take it, for there is not a pang I suffer but what is known to

Him; and I have evidence that, though far from home and my native land, I am not forgotten."

On the morning of the 12th of Sixth month, he appeared unusually feeble, though not apparently worse in other respects. He was wheeled into an adjoining apartment, as usual, and shortly after remarked to one of the family who had affectionately watched over him, "Perhaps this day will end all your cares and troubles." It was an unusual remark; but as it was supposed to proceed from the feeling of present weakness, it did not excite any particular alarm.

To some expressions of hope by a friend respecting his recovery, his only answer was an incredulous smile. One who had kindly waited on him, calling to take leave, as he was about to attend a distant Yearly Meeting, he said to him: "Give my dear love to all my friends. God reigneth over all; His mercy and goodness have never failed me."

About eight in the evening, being offered some tea, he remarked that he could not see it; and it was evident his sight had failed. Shortly after he fell asleep, but his breathing was more laboured than usual. Being asked if he was comfortable, he replied in the affirmative, but soon after became entirely insensible, and gently passed away about half-past twelve at night, without sigh or struggle.

He was interred at New York on the 15th of Sixth month, his funeral being largely attended, and proving a season of much solemnity.

"Farewell!
And though the ways of Zion mourn
When her strong ones are called away,
Who like thyself have calmly borne
The heat and burden of the day,
Yet He who slumbereth not nor sleepeth,
His ancient watch around us keepeth;
Still sent from His creating hand,
New witnesses for Truth shall stand —
New instruments to sound abroad
The gospel of a risen Lord;
To gather to the folds once more
The desolate and gone astray,
The scattered of a cloudy day,
And Zion's broken walls restore!
And, through the travail and the toil
Of true obedience, minister
Beauty for ashes, and the oil
Of joy for mourning, unto her!
So shall her holy bounds increase
With walls of praise and gates of peace:
So shall the vine, which martyr tears
And blood sustained in other years,
With fresher life be clothed upon;
And to the world in beauty show,
Like the rose-plant of Jericho,
And glorious as Lebanon!"

JOHN G. WHITTIER.

VISIT

TO

THE PACIFIC ISLES.

VISIT

TO

THE PACIFIC ISLES.

CHAPTER I.

SAILS IN THE HENRY FREELING — DETENTION OFF THE ISLE OF WIGHT — FAREWELL LETTER — ARRIVAL AT RIO DE JANEIRO.

THE necessary arrangements for the voyage to the South Seas having been completed, Daniel Wheeler embarked on board the "Henry Freeling," a packet of 101 tons register. This vessel had been purchased and fitted up expressly for the purpose, through the liberality of a number of Friends.

Accompanied by his son Charles, who believed himself called to this step "by that gracious Being who has an undoubted right to dispose of his creatures according to the good pleasure of His will," he sailed from the river Thames the 13th of the Eleventh month, 1833.

Severe storms and adverse winds detained them about four months near the Isle of Wight. Import-

ant advantages resulted from this detention. It appeared that the captain selected was not suitable, and the delay enabled Friends to procure one who proved to be well qualified for the station. The discipline of the vessel was better ordered, and the true character of the seamen understood before their final departure. This was the more necessary, as it was determined the voyage should be conducted on temperance principles; that meetings for worship should be regularly held twice on the First day of the week; and that, as far as was practicable, all work should be dispensed with on that day, to allow the sailors a portion of time to themselves. The Scriptures were to be read morning and evening in the cabin, where the captain and mate were expected to attend.

These matters having been satisfactorily arranged, Daniel Wheeler, on the day previous to their final departure, addressed the following letter to the committee who had assisted him in preparing for the voyage:

"*Henry Freeling, Mother-bank,* 14*th of* 3*d mo.* 1834.

Upon reference I find that it is now considerably more than three months since I began a letter for the information of my dear friends, when at that time anticipating that ere long we should be permitted to direct our course across the trackless ocean to the Southern Hemisphere; but I had not completed more than half a sheet of paper, when the progress of my pen was arrested by circumstances which have prevented any farther addition being made

until this day, when the way now seems to open for resuming the subject, our departure being at hand.

Among the many multiplied mercies and blessings which unceasingly flow from the bounteous and compassionate hand of Him who 'crowneth the year with His goodness' and 'satisfieth the desire of every living thing,' I feel bound to acknowledge, with humble thankfulness and admiration, our long detention on these shores. Notwithstanding there have been many gloomy days, and days of darkness, 'as the morning spread upon the mountains,' and many long and dreary winter nights to pass through, when the raging storm has again and again whitened with foam the surface of the agitated deep around us; and not only the strife of elements to witness without, but a conflicting and spiritual strife within, 'tossed with tempest and not comforted;' yet how unspeakably great the faithfulness of our good and gracious Lord God! 'His compassions fail not,' but have been, and still continue to be, 'new every morning,' as the returning day; for in moments of greatest conflict and trial there has been something permitted, like the 'bow in the cloud,' for the poor mind to look at, to animate, and cheer, and strengthen with hardness to endure and stand firm.

But, although moon after moon hath waned, and faith and patience have been beset as on the right hand and on the left, and the afflictions of the gospel have at times been permitted to abound, yet to the glory and honour and praise of Him whose name, ever excellent and adorable, shall be great among

the nations, from the rising of the sun to the going down of the same, — the consolations of the gospel have also abounded, in a degree of the fulness of that heavenly blessing which makes truly rich, and whereunto no sorrow is added; when faith hath been mercifully strengthened, and patience renewed under the tribulations of the day. And notwithstanding an untrodden path has been my portion, yet after all, though weakness and fear are my constant companions by the way, safety and peace have been hitherto found. I would therefore encourage all my beloved friends to keep near to their heavenly Teacher and Leader, who, if faithfully followed, will not only conduct their steppings to a hair's breadth, but will preserve and keep the mind in calmness and serenity, securely, as in a pavilion, 'from the strife of tongues.'

In addition to the marvellous loving-kindness I have thus endeavoured to portray, many other mercies and blessings have been showered upon our heads, during the apparently long and unaccountable detention of our little bark upon our own coasts; these I have often had to number with grateful sensations, when the light has shone brightly, and manifested clearly to my finite understanding how much we should have missed, if our progress had not thus been arrested. So that with myself, instead of this delay having been productive of regret, or the cause of letting in fear or doubt, to stagger or depress my tribulated mind, I do, my dear friends, hail it with gratitude and thankfulness, as

the gracious and compassionate dealing of my Lord and Master, not only as a time of Divine favour and condescension, but as an earnest of His love and mercy for our encouragement, instruction, and future benefit, graciously vouchsafed — a time of preparation for the important work before us, and of weaning from every dependence and guidance which are not of Him, to strengthen our confidence, and put our whole trust in His power to help and deliver out of every distress, who not only commands the storm, but at whose rebuke the mountain billows cease to undulate, and lo! 'there is a great calm.'

Within the last two or three days the prospect of liberation has begun to dawn with clearness; but I trust, that if even a farther detention should be meted out to us, either here or in some other port, the same resignation to the Divine will, will be vouchsafed; for although I have for more than two years past felt anxious to move forward in a work which has yet to begin when the decay of nature is visible, and the shadows of the evening proclaim, as they lengthen around me, the steady decline of life's setting sun, yet I have been frequently comforted by a renewed evidence that we have not yet been here *one day* too long.

It will, I feel assured, afford my dear friends much satisfaction to know that the crew of the vessel, notwithstanding the frequent though unavoidable communication with the neighbouring shore for so great a length of time, have given no cause for uneasiness by improper conduct, and have at all times behaved,

with scarcely an exception, in an orderly and agreeable manner; and the captain now provided for us seems to be judiciously selected, and the man who, beyond all expectation, is admirably adapted to aid and assist, by example and experience, in the accomplishment of the important object before us; so that I hope what has passed, and what may yet be in store for us to come, will be found and acknowledged to be among the 'all things that work together for good.' I must not omit adding, that the solemn covering frequently witnessed mercifully to prevail and preside over us, when sitting together before the Lord, is worthy with humble gratitude to be commemorated, as the strongest and most indubitable evidence for our encouragement, that at seasons 'He is with us of a truth.'

As it is now a period of the year when ships seldom sail to those parts to which we are destined, whether we proceed by the Cape of Good Hope, which is most probable, or by Cape Horn, in either case a wintry season awaits us; but my trust is in the Lord, not doubting but that we shall have the privilege of the prayers of the faithful for our preservation; and though conscious of our own weakness and utter unworthiness, and often under a feeling of being less than the least of all my dear brethren and sisters that are alive in the unchangeable Truth, yet I think I can say that these things trouble me not, nor move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry which I have received of

the Lord Jesus to testify the gospel of that grace 'which bringeth salvation, and hath appeared unto all men,' teaching all, that so from the uttermost parts of the earth songs of praise may be heard, and the grateful tribute of 'thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift,' may resound to His glory; for it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that showeth mercy: 'it is not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts.'

And now, whilst my heart is bearing towards the 'isles afar off,' the same constraining love which wrought the willingness to leave all for my gracious Lord's sake and His gospel's, extends its binding influence to all my dear brethren and sisters, of every age and of every class, wherever situated and however circumstanced; desiring, in tender and affectionate solicitude, that they may be found stedfastly following the footsteps of those honourable and worthy predecessors in the same religious profession with ourselves, who have long since rested from their labours, and whose memorial is on high; who bore the burden and heat of a day of deep suffering, in the faithful discharge of their duty for the support of those principles which have been transmitted in their original purity and brightness to us. If any should feel sensible of having fallen short in this important work, let me in tenderest love encourage such to be willing to humble themselves under the mighty hand of God, even to the state of little children, and turn inward to the pure, unflattering

witness which cannot deceive nor be deceived; to be willing to enter into a diligent and heartfelt search, and patiently and impartially examine how far those indispensable conditions are submitted to on their part, without which none can be followers of the meek and lowly Jesus. Where is that self-denial and the daily cross he first enjoined? Are we denying ourselves those gratifications of time and sense which cherish and keep alive in us the evil propensities of fallen nature, which separate man from his Maker, and, like 'the little foxes, spoil the tender vines' designed in richest mercy to bud, blossom, and bring forth fruit, lastingly to remain to the praise and glory of the great Husbandman? — but without faithfulness there will be no fruitfulness. It is not giving up or forsaking this or that little thing, which to part with is little or no sacrifice or privation, that will suffice; a full surrender of the whole will, in all things, must be made to Him whose sovereign right it is to rule and reign in our hearts; and let none plead for disobedience in these little things on the ground of their being such, for if such they really are, they are the more easily dispensed with, and not worth retaining; and a tenacity in wishing to preserve them assuredly indicates that they have more place in our affections than perhaps we are aware of: 'He that loveth father or mother more than me, is not worthy of me; and he that loveth son or daughter more than me, is not worthy of me; and he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.'

And now, my dear brethren and sisters, 'May the God of Peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, keep all your hearts and minds, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever.'

In the love of the everlasting gospel, accept this expression of farewell from your affectionate friend and brother,

DANIEL WHEELER.

15*th of Third mo.*, 1834, *at Sea, and clear of the Needle Rocks, all well.*"

They crossed the equator on the 21st of Fourth month, and, on account of the advanced state of the season, abandoned the intention of aiming for the Cape of Good Hope, and determined to put in at Rio de Janeiro for supplies of water, etc.

The following are extracts from his journal: "Fifth month, 10th. This afternoon at sun-set a brig was seen upon our lee quarter, steering the same course as ourselves, perhaps three or four miles distant from us; she was soon covered up by the night, and no more thought of. Being upon the deck (an usual practice with me the fore-part of the night) between nine and ten o'clock, the carpenter suddenly exclaimed, 'Why here's the brig!' Upon looking, I saw the vessel at a considerable distance from us, but soon perceived by the stars that she was ap-

proaching with uncommon rapidity in a most suspicious direction, as if intending to cross our fore-foot, and cut us off. We watched her very narrowly, expecting every minute she would open a fire upon us. She continued to haul directly across our head at a very short distance from us, but we steadily kept our course, without the slightest variation, or manifesting any symptoms of hurry or fear, or noticing her in any way. I felt our situation to be at the moment very critical, knowing that these latitudes, and particularly this neighbourhood, are exceedingly infested with piratical vessels, which find shelter in the Brazilian harbours as traders, where they fit out occasionally for Africa with merchandize, and return with whole cargoes of oppressed Africans for sale, landing them on private parts of the Brazil coast: at other times they act as pirates, when it suits their convenience, or are in want of stores. This was indeed a trial of faith of no common kind; but my mind was stayed upon the Lord, feeling a good degree of resignation to His holy will, whatever might be permitted to befall us. After watching the vessel with anxiety for some time, she passed away, without making the least apparent stop. On considering the matter, we concluded that when she saw us at sun-set we were taken for a Dutch galiot, that might fall an easy prey to her; but when she came up to us in the dark, near enough to examine with telescopes the real shape of our vessel, we were found of such a suspicious build of a nondescript kind, not seen before in these seas, as might lead to

the supposition that we were intended as a decoy, and though very tame looking without, yet perhaps fiery hot within, if meddled with. From the position she took, there is no doubt she expected to throw us into confusion by firing into us, and then, in the midst of it, to have boarded us on the weather side. There was not the least glimmer of light to be seen on board of her, whilst the 'Henry Freeling' was well lighted up in both cabins and the binnacle, and the reflection from our sky-lights was well calculated to puzzle and intimidate the crew, as this circumstance would be sufficient at once to show that we were not a common merchant vessel. The captain, cook, steward, Charles, and myself, were all additional persons upon the deck, besides the regular watch, which would give an idea of strength to them, unusual in so small a vessel as the 'Henry Freeling.' Every thing was conducted with great quietness, not the least hint given to any one on board to prepare for an attack: the watch below was not even informed of what seemed to await us upon the deck. The Lord only was our deliverer, for she was restrained from laying a hand upon our little bark; and to Him alone our preservation is with gratitude and thankfulness ascribed. The crews of these pirates consist in general of desperadoes of all nations, who frequently commit the most dreadful atrocities on board the ships they seize, in putting to death all those who oppose their boarding them; they are mostly crowded with men amply sufficient in number to take and destroy some of our large armed traders. This vessel

was doubtless a selected one for the work; we thought she actually sailed twice as fast as the 'Henry Freeling,' which is far from being a slow vessel. We saw no more of her, and after midnight I partook of some refreshing sleep.

12th. Fine weather, with a fair wind all the day, and a prodigious swell of the sea from the south-east. The swell was so immensely large that we concluded that the summit of one wave was at least half a mile distant from that of another."

On the 13th of Fifth month they arrived at Rio de Janeiro, and were obliged to submit to a quarantine of five days. On landing to procure such articles as they needed, they unexpectedly met with two serious persons, both natives of Scotland, by whom they were invited to attend a religious meeting held every First-day evening. Daniel Wheeler acknowledged their kindness, and informed them that he could not then give an answer, but that if, after reflection, it appeared to be right, he would take care to be there in time. As the evening approached, feeling that the burden was laid upon him, he landed and proceeded to the appointed place. Here it was arranged that those assembled should go through with their meeting as usual, and at the close an opportunity should be given to him to clear himself of the religious exercise he felt. At the conclusion of their meeting, his certificate from the Morning Meeting in London was read, and a solemn silence ensued, when Daniel Wheeler spoke as follows:

"It had never been contemplated, before leaving England, that we should have to touch at a place where bigotry, superstition, and slavery stalk unmasked with open face, particularly as it had not come within the range of the prospect before us. I acknowledged having mentioned to my son some days ago, that I thought our coming here must be for some object unknown to us at that time; but since we had been sitting together, I had found that the Lord had a seed even in this place that fear Him, and think upon His name; and unto these, in an especial manner, my heart was enlarged in the love of the everlasting gospel — that love which would gather all mankind into the heavenly garner of rest and peace. I had not proceeded much farther in the expression of a desire that their 'faith might not stand in the wisdom of man, but in the power of God,' before I had to turn their attention to the solemnity so evidently spreading over us, as the crown and diadem of every rightly gathered religious assembly — a feeling not at our command, nor in the power of man to produce, and which could only be felt when the Great Head of the Church fulfils His gracious promise, 'Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.' After this the way seemed fully opened, and a door of entrance also for the doctrines of the gospel in plainness and freedom. I had particularly to speak of the nature of true spiritual worship, and waiting upon the Lord, the necessity of knowing for ourselves the great work

of regeneration to be going on — the true faith of the gospel as it is in Jesus, the Author and Finisher thereof, which worketh by love, purifieth the heart, and giveth victory over death, hell, and the grave — stating that I had nothing new to offer — that 'other foundation can no man lay, than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ' — reviving the terms prescribed by Himself to those who would become His disciples and followers; the 'poor in spirit' were reminded that to them the blessing appertains, and the kingdom belongs; the woful sentence to the unprofitable servant was contrasted with that of the faithful occupier of his Lord's talents; the beauty, purity, and spirituality of the true gospel Church, and the necessity and practicability of becoming members thereof, while here on earth, was held up to view. Considerable brokenness appeared in some individuals, and I believe it may be said that Truth rose into dominion, and reigned over all. For my own part, I never recollect being more sensible of such continued weakness and fear from the beginning to the end — the creature was laid low, and I trust only desirous that all praise might be ascribed to Him to whom it belongs for ever. This was indeed a precious opportunity, and although not obtained without ploughing a furrow six or seven thousand miles in length, across the unstable surface of the ocean, yet the love, joy, and peace that remain, are a rich and ample reward. We reached our little bark in perfect safety, with hearts full of comfort, pretty soon after ten o'clock at night, while a torrent

of rain was falling; the boat was manned by the natives of Africa, now held in cruel bondage in this place; they are, however, treated by us as fellow-men and brethren, and truly my heart abounds with love towards these poor creatures, not easily to be described."

CHAPTER II.

SAILS FOR VAN DIEMEN'S LAND — PERILS OF THE VOYAGE — ARRIVAL AT HOBART TOWN — MEETS WITH JAMES BACKHOUSE AND GEORGE W. WALKER.

They left Rio de Janeiro on the 28th of Fifth month, and, after a tempestuous passage of fifteen weeks, were permitted to arrive in safety at Hobart Town, Van Diemen's Land.

The following extracts from D. Wheeler's letters and journal give an impressive description of the perils they encountered on the passage. It was the wintry season in those southern latitudes, and rough weather was anticipated.

"Sixth month, 2d. Since leaving the land, the winds have been so strongly opposed to our going round Cape Horn, as nearly to put that course out of sight; to-day we are so far off the coast of South America as to be exposed to the swell of the great South Sea, which is no longer kept from us by a point of land which forms the projecting Cape; this swell is prodigious, and plainly shows the turbulent state of the weather in that quarter, and seems like a final settlement, and removal of any thing like a doubt in my mind as to our being in the right track at present. After midnight the weather became very rough, and the wind inclining more and more south-

erly, rendered our position in sailing very critical. Before four o'clock, A. M., two heavy seas broke in upon us, one of which stove in a part of the bulwark on the starboard side; happily none of the watch on deck were washed overboard. From this time things got rapidly worse, and the only alternative now left was to bring the vessel to, with her head to the wind and sea, under suitable storm-canvass to maintain that position. In addition to the great risk attending at all times any circumstance connected with 'lying to,' it was a position in which we had not yet tried the 'Henry Freeling.' It was not indeed an every-day occurrence for a small vessel, which we have had hitherto no opportunity of proving under more gentle circumstances, to be brought round against a sea which had nothing to control or break the range of its sweeping influence between her and the South Pole. Captain Keen manifested great coolness and ability on the occasion, and soon after day-break all things were ready to accomplish our intended purpose, to effect which an interval was waited for, until the blast should lull a little; and whilst much depended upon a timely reaction of the sails, so as to prevent the vessel from forcing herself with too great violence into the opposing waves, as her head came round towards them, at the same time it was indispensably needful to keep a sufficient quantity of canvass set, to guard against being overtaken and overwhelmed by the mountain waves, which in an awful manner were now threatening us behind. A few minutes relieved us from all sus-

pense and anxiety, and although heavy laden with our newly recruited and increased stock of water, some of which encumbered the deck, yet we had the comfort to see the vessel rise in a lively manner to the surface of the loftiest billows, before any material quantity of their contents had time to burst over her. As the wind blew directly from an immensity of ice, a change so sudden, from the great heat we had so recently witnessed, to such a cold penetrating blast, was sensibly felt by all on board.

Sixth month, 10th. Towards evening it again became stormy, with much rain; the sea breaking over us with great violence, scarcely any part, even below deck, could be preserved free from wet, and all our ingenuity was called forth to preserve our beds moderately dry. At times the weight of water seemed too much for our little bark to bear, from which she could scarcely extricate herself before another deluge burst in upon her deck. A state of desertion was my lot throughout the day, and although at seasons I was ready to say, 'Lord, carest thou not that we perish?' — yet I was not permitted in the darkest moment to cast away my confidence, although for many hours it seemed needful for us to stand prepared as with our lives in our hands, not knowing how soon they might be called for. At midnight the scene was truly awful; the wind blew in a furious manner, and the sea raged with increased violence, with heavy falls of rain. The mercury in the marine barometer, which had been

falling all the day, became lower, and the little vessel seemed to twist and bend beneath her heavy burden. At this moment of struggle and extremity, behold a shift of wind to the south-west, which, instead of taking aback suddenly the little canvass we were scudding under (which might have produced consequences above all others the most to be dreaded), came regularly round; and the captain, availing himself of this moment, directed that the vessel should be 'hove to.' Captain Keen came to me shortly after this circumstance had taken place, to acknowledge how providentially this change had been ordered, being sensible of the favour thus graciously bestowed upon us.

Sixth month, 13th. This date has not failed to awaken feelings of painful reflection in reference to days which have long since passed away, it being thirty-three years since it pleased the God of all my mercies to bestow a crown upon the head of a poor unworthy creature, even the rich blessing of a truly virtuous wife, at the close of a meeting at Doncaster. Full well at this remote period do I remember the solemn and delightful season with which we were remarkably favoured, from the beginning to the end of the meeting. Dear Thomas Colley appeared largely in testimony on the occasion, to the tendering of many present. It was indeed an earnest of the heavenly Master's love, which never ceased to follow us through all the vicissitudes of time, during a life, not a little chequered, for a term of more than thirty-two years and a half, when He was pleased to deprive me of

my greatest earthly treasure, and to take back that which He gave; but it was His own, I verily believe, even His, the same who enabled me to say, in the moment of my greatest distress, 'blessed be the name of the Lord.' In looking over the different relatives and friends present on the above occasion, there is at this period scarcely one of those individuals, at that time about our own age, who now survives, and I find that many of them much younger than ourselves have been summoned from works to rewards: thus, whilst many of my contemporaries have finished their earthly career, I am still spared a little longer, a living monument of the Lord's everlasting mercy, for the purpose, I humbly trust, of declaring unto others what He hath done for my soul, and to show forth the praises of Him who hath translated me out of darkness into His marvellous light. And although the sacrifice I am making may appear great, and be rendered more formidable by the late hour in the evening in which it has to be offered, yet in my estimation it is small indeed, and light as the dust of the balance, when the love and mercy, long-suffering and compassion of my good and gracious Lord God are brought into remembrance, who hath redeemed my life from destruction, and crowned me with loving-kindness and tender mercies, to myself incomprehensible, and, I am persuaded, only known to those, in the same degree, whose sin is blotted out as a cloud, and their trangressions as a thick cloud, by repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ, who came into the world to save sinners, of whom

each of us, in the depth of self-abasement, can say, 'I am chief.'"

A narrow escape from shipwreck against the island Inaccessible is thus adverted to:

"Sixth month, 18th. As the day advanced, the wind and sea increased, and the fog was so dense close down to the horizon, that there seemed but little prospect of discovering the land at a sufficient distance to prevent our running directly upon it. As the afternoon wore away, the danger hourly increased; but at this juncture the Everlasting Arm of strength and power, in wonted mercy and compassion, was signally displayed for our preservation and relief, and in such a manner as wholly to exclude the slightest pretence of mortal man's having the least share in it. The mist cleared suddenly away; and though but for a short interval, yet it was sufficient to discover a lofty, rocky island, about half a mile distant, standing nearly perpendicular out of the sea, far above the mast-head of the 'Henry Freeling.' We soon perceived that this was the island called 'Inaccessible,' and appropriately so, as, from its vast height and steep approach, no landing apparently, on the side next to us, could possibly have been effected. This seemed at once to relieve our anxiety, and the captain now considered all danger as past, and that we should safely run between this island and another called 'Nightingale Island,' although not able to see it on account of the fog, these islands being ten miles asunder. Thus cheered, we pursued our flying course with great velocity, as the wind had in-

creased in violence soon after the high rocky island was first seen. But in another hour our prospect was suddenly clouded by the appearance of more rugged rocky land on the same side of us. This circumstance for a time staggered all our hopes, as it could not be accounted for; and of course we knew not how soon some unknown lurking reef might wreck our fragile vessel, which was scourged on by a hurricane blast with greater speed, it is probable, than at any previous time. In the early part of this suspense, Captain Keen said to me: 'Now if your friends in England could look at us, they would have a better idea of the sacrifice you are making, than they at present possess.' But this would have conveyed to them only a faint idea of what we have since had to pass through, and was only the beginning of those perils which in the end have been so abundantly crowned with wondrous mercy. In this situation, the night was gathering blackness and darkness in the midst of a heavy tempest.

Sixth month, 22d. 'Lying to,' as yesterday, the storm still raging with unabated violence, squalls, heavy rain, and lightning through the night. The sea having risen to a fearful height, has frequently inundated the deck of the vessel; and from the continual working of her whole frame, our bed-places have been unfit to sleep in, the water having found its way through numerous chinks. This morning early, a heavy sea broke into us, bringing a larger quantity of water upon the deck than at any time before. To myself a very remarkable and striking

event took place this morning. Shortly after the vessel had shipped a heavy body of water, I went up the hatchway to look round for a short interval; at that moment the seas were running in mountainous succession, and I observed that some of the loftiest of the waves were very nearly prevailing against our little vessel; it seemed as if she could not much longer escape being overwhelmed by them altogether. I made no remark to any one, but soon after we tried to get some breakfast; while so occupied, one of the men called down to inform us that there was a sight worth looking at on deck; it was a large collection of a small species of the whale, close by the ship. I thought I should like to see them; there were perhaps more than two hundred of these animals close to us, about twelve feet long each. When I went upon deck after breakfast, they were still close to our bows, and the man at the helm said that they served as a breakwater for us; their being so was afterwards mentioned by some other person. At last my eyes were open to discover the protection they were affording our little struggling vessel; they occupied a considerable portion of the surface of the sea, in the exact direction between the vessel and the wind and waves, reaching so near to us, that some of them might have been struck with a harpoon; they remained constantly swimming in gentle and steady order, as if to maintain the position of a regular phalanx, and I suggested that nothing should be done to frighten them away. It was openly remarked by some, that not one sea had broken on

board us while they occupied their useful post; and when they at last retired, it was perceived that the waves did not rage with the same violence as before they came to our relief. I give this wonderful circumstance just as it occurred, and if any should be disposed to view it as a thing of chance, *I* do not, for I believe it to be one of the great and marvellous works of the Lord God Almighty. These friends in need, and friends indeed, filled up a sufficiently wide space upon two of the large swells of the ocean, completely to obstruct the approach of each succeeding wave opposed to the vessel, so that if the third wave from us was coming in lofty foam towards us, by the time it had rolled over and become the second wave, its foaming, threatening aspect was destroyed entirely, reaching us, at last, in the form of a dead and harmless swell. They are a very oily fish, but seldom larger than to yield about two barrels of oil; they are commonly called black fish.

Sixth month, 23d. Still 'lying to,' sustained through another rough and perilous night, the wintry storm yet howling around us. We remarked, after having just passed the shortest day in this climate, that our friends in England had returned home from the Yearly Meeting, and were enjoying the delightful days of summer at their greatest length.

Sixth month, 26th. The tempestuous and turbulent weather which our little vessel has had of late to contend with so largely, the great length of voyage still unaccomplished, at the most unfavourable season

of the year, have frequently been a subject of serious thought; but more particularly from witnessing, since the last heavy gales, considerable and almost daily increasing leakage from different parts of the deck, owing to the great strain to which her upper works have been subjected, by the enormous weight of lumber, together with part of our stock of fresh water, upon the deck. After looking at the state of things on every side, and taking the different bearings of the whole into deliberate consideration, it seemed the most prudent measure, in the hope of contributing to the future safety of the vessel, and to enable her to perform the service looked forward to, in its fullest extent, to lighten her deck by launching overboard, on the first favourable opportunity, every weight of spars, etc. that could be dispensed with. As this could not be done in rough weather, without the risk of injury both to the people and the ship, and there being less wind and sea to-day than for some time back, it was resolved, if possible, to accomplish it. Accordingly, four heavy logs, a spare square sail-yard (old), a heavy spar intended for a top-mast, with many other cumbrous weights, which tended to increase the weakness of the quarters of the vessel, were cast into the sea without accident. It is truly cause of regret thus to sacrifice articles which at a future day may be much needed; but the necessity of endeavouring to relieve the present difficulty and distress, compelled us to pass over that, which now can be looked at as remote, and may never occur.

Seventh month, 7th. Still 'lying to:' the storm has continued all night, and the sea makes very heavy upon us. The mercury in the marine barometer sunk to 29·30, then rose a little, and again sunk lower in the tube. As the night advanced, the storm increased with awful violence. Captain Keen said his last voyage was forty-six months in length, but that he had never witnessed such a night during the whole of it. The strength of the wind was incredible, and the lightning appalling, with a fall of rain and sleet; the sea broke in upon our little ship in an alarming manner. The poor men were lashed upon the deck with ropes, to prevent their being washed away: benumbed with cold, and at times floating with the vast load of water upon the deck, their sufferings are not easily described. The bulwark on the larboard side was damaged, and the spray reached more than two-thirds up the main-mast. In the morning the seamen expressed considerable discouragement, and I observed a disposition rather to make the worst of things. The captain said 'he hoped he should not see such another night in this vessel.' One person did not expect she would have kept up until morning. When assembled at the breakfast table, I had to tell them, with a degree of firmness, that a murmur ought not to be heard amongst us, but rather the expression of thankfulness that 'we are as we are.' On looking round at the ravages of the storm, I was surprised to find that so little damage was done; and the increase of pumping had been

comparatively trifling to what might have been expected, from the violent and frequent strokes of the sea, and the floods of water that had rolled over the deck of the vessel.

In the darkest part of the night of the 6th inst., a distinct luminous appearance or glow of light remained at our mast-head — a phenomenon only seen in dreadful weather, when the atmosphere is highly charged with electric fluid. The sailors call it a corposant. The countenances of our men were considerably whitened this morning, by the great quantity of salt which, having been deposited by the constant wash of the sea, had dried upon their faces. In the course of the storm yesterday evening, unusual darkness gathered round us, when suddenly the wind, which blew with great violence, increased to a complete hurricane, and roared in a terrific manner, and for a while closely threatened our little vessel. The force of the wind was so great, that the waves for the time almost ceased to undulate, and the surface of the ocean became level and whitened with foam. At this juncture I was comforted in beholding the calmness and resignation with which my dear Charles was favoured. At one time he remarked: 'What a painful situation those people must be in, who have not a good reason for being exposed to similar distress, when they find themselves overtaken by it!' I told him it was formidable enough even to those who felt themselves in the line of apprehended duty. As the night approached, another storm began to threaten, and the waves ran so cross, and broke in such differ-

ent directions, that the motion of the vessel for a time exceeded all we had before witnessed, and the waters rushed on board of her on every side. At ten o'clock, P. M., it was so tempestuous, that we again hugged the howling blast by 'heaving to:' as the vessel came round with her head to the wind, one heavy wave broke on board, but happily none of the crew were lost. In the afternoon, when it was thought that the storm had arrived at its greatest strength, this hope was suddenly extinguished by the mercury falling in a short space of time down to 29·50. The captain said: 'We have done all we can; trust in Providence only remains.'"

The following extract proves the state of our dear friend's mind about this period:

"Two or three days previous to this tempest, I felt much depressed on account of my Charles, he having drooped more than usual, from the effects of the cold weather: the great length of time we had already been the sport of the winds and waves since leaving the Rio de Janeiro, could not but excite a painful and discouraging fear lest his strength should prove unequal to the remaining part of the voyage, as we had only passed over about one thousand miles in distance, since beginning to traverse the margin of the Indian Ocean, and are still greatly annoyed by the strong currents and heavy gales which prevail from the direction of Madagascar, and are probably attracted down the Mozambique channel, which separates that island from the coast of Natal, on the south-east shore of Africa. But as the late storm

approached, I felt, through unmerited favour, increasing peacefulness and tranquillity, which nothing during its whole continuance was permitted to disturb; and in the most awful moment of uncertainty and impending danger, fear had no place to enter; this was utterly banished by the love of the ever-blessed Master that flowed in my heart, and which in the true dignity of its heavenly power cast it out; and the language which at intervals continued to prevail and occupy the inner man, with a soothing and encouraging sweetness, was that of the Psalmist, 'Delight thyself in the Lord, and He shall give thee the desires of thy heart.' Thus indeed was strength truly administered, according to the glorious working of His power, unto all patience and long-suffering with joyfulness, to endure, and give thanks to the Lord Most High. I should shrink from making any remark on the state of my own mind whilst in the extremity out of which we have been so remarkably delivered, did I not feel called upon by a sense of gratitude to our compassionate Lord; at the same time a hope gleams through my heart, that it will tend to strengthen the faith of some hesitating and doubting fellow-travellers who may eventually peruse these lines, to 'follow on to know the Lord' for themselves, and thus partake of His love, mercy, and life-giving presence, and be encouraged to forsake all and follow Him, 'nothing doubting,' wherever He may be pleased to lead; for the declaration, 'Lo! I am with you alway,' will assuredly be verified in their experience, and all earthly things will be esti-

mated but as loss and dross, in comparison with the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus.

Eighth month, 4th. The weather very boisterous, although we were permitted to keep before the wind and sea. To-day we were escorted by an unusual number of birds, the albatross, cape hen, stormy petrel, etc. On the fifth we were compelled again to 'lie to,' and this day, the sixth, we are again 'lying to.' At three o'clock, P. M., we were assailed by a most violent tempest, with heavy falls of rain, sleet, and hail; the sea curled in an unusual manner, and, raging in opposite directions, our little bark seemed as if she could not long sustain the unequal conflict, as the wind kept increasing to a degree almost inconceivable, except to those who may have witnessed the hurricane with all its furious and angry growl. Every thing was done that could be devised for our relief, but all our efforts seemed overpowered and unavailing; and we could not wholly divest ourselves of an apprehension that she must eventually fill and founder by the lee with us at last, if the fury of the storm were not curbed; of this, however, there seemed no probability, and the approach of night served only to increase its horror and renew its force. In this situation, one would have supposed that no relief could have availed short of an abatement of the storm; but true it is, that an increase of its fury produced a circumstance which at once enabled our weather-beaten little vessel to rise with comparative ease to every opposing mountain-billow. At eight o'clock,

P. M., the wind was so powerfully strong, that it blew our new storm-jib away from the duff or bolt-rope altogether. Every exertion was made to prevent the total loss of the sail, but it flapped with such violence as to shake the whole frame of the vessel, threatening destruction to all that came near it. At length it was lowered down into the water under the lee of the ship, where it was happily secured, but not without one man being hurt by it. For want of this sail, it was now feared that the sea would make a constant breach over our deck; but before another sail could be prepared to replace it, it was truly relieving to find that the vessel bowed to the seas, as they met her, in a much more lively manner without it, than she had done with it. Thus, in a very unexpected manner, was a way made for us to ride triumphant through the remainder of the terrific storm, without any material injury to the vessel, beyond the loss of her bulwark. 'This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles,' and to Him be the glory and the praise for ever. In the course of every storm which we had witnessed previously to the last, thunder and lightning had more or less accompanied them, sometimes in an awful manner, but more particularly the lightning, when forked; and although we left England without conducting chains, yet thus far not a flash has been permitted to harm us. By way of precaution, the pumps have at times been stopped up, to prevent their being split. Such favours I desire to record with thank-

fulness, and to number them among the many blessings which have descended upon us from our heavenly Parent, times innumerable."

They anchored in the river Derwent on the 10th of Ninth month. In a letter from Hobart Town, dated 25th of Ninth month, 1834, accompanying his journal, Daniel Wheeler thus writes: "Though many of the storms and tempests have been enumerated, yet not one-half of what it has been our portion to witness, has been told to my beloved friends. It may suffice for me to say, that we have been compelled to seek refuge more than twenty times from the fury of the hostile elements, by 'lying to,' with the ship's head to the wind and waves; and this has been resorted to only in cases of extreme danger."

It will be seen by the extract from the journal under date of 25th of Sixth month, that it appeared necessary to lighten the vessel by casting into the sea some heavy logs, etc. In the same letter Daniel Wheeler alludes to one of the sailors who, it appears, had been remarkably visited, and brought under feelings of deep condemnation, and who opened his mind to him in a letter. Of this man he remarks: "His obdurate heart was never softened, and subdued, and humbled, until after the last dreadful tempest, when the weight of his burden became so heavy as to constrain him to confession. I had perceived in his eye the anguish of his wounded spirit, but knew not the cause until he wrote to me. He had several times been in danger of being washed overboard, and once nearly fell from one of the

yards when aloft; but these dangers were not sufficient wholly to bring down his stubborn heart. I think this one circumstance, independently of our (I trust) timely visit to Rio de Janeiro, cannot fail to animate the hearts of all our dear friends, particularly such as have been instrumental in any degree towards promoting the great work in which we are engaged, and cause them to feel a lively participation in that heavenly joy which welcomes the repenting and returning sinner to his Father's house."

From a previous extract, it will be observed that Daniel Wheeler suggested that certain stipulations should be made with any person who might be engaged to take the command of the vessel: one of these was, that himself and mate should attend morning and evening, when the Holy Scriptures were read; this appears to have been attended to, and the sailors also enjoyed the privilege of hearing them read, at suitable times. From a paragraph in one of his letters, it appears that he had been careful to inform them that he did not consider such reading as a part of Divine worship, "but that true worship is an act between man and his great Creator, and can only be performed acceptably in spirit and in truth."

When the state of the weather permitted, meetings were regularly held on First and Fifth-days: those on First-days were attended by the ship's company, and were, it appears, often seasons of favour, comforting and supporting the minds of these dear Friends under trials of faith of no common kind.

Whilst at this place they were rejoiced to meet with James Backhouse, a minister of the Society of Friends, from York, England, and his companion George Washington Walker. These Friends were, like themselves, engaged in the great and glorious cause of the gospel of life and salvation in those distant lands; and their joy was not a little increased by the opportunities with which they were favoured, of labouring unitedly to promote it.

CHAPTER III.

EMBARKS FOR SIDNEY—CREW OF THE HENRY FREELING—SAILS FOR TAHITI—ARRIVAL AND INTERVIEW WITH THE NATIVES—MEETING WITH THE MISSIONARIES.

HAVING finished their labours in Van Diemen's Land, James Backhouse and his companion were prepared to accompany Daniel Wheeler and his son to Sidney, at which place they arrived on the 20th of Twelfth month. Here they thought it right to appoint a public meeting for Divine worship, with the inhabitants—the first ever held there by Friends. It was, upon the whole, from beginning to end, a solid opportunity: James Backhouse and D. W. were largely opened in testimony amongst them. James Backhouse appeared a second time, and concluded the meeting in prayer. From the quietness and solemnity which reigned throughout the whole time of the meeting, it might have been supposed that the congregation assembled consisted wholly of persons accustomed to stillness and silence, instead of an audience of which scarcely an individual had ever before been present at a Friends' meeting, or was even aware of the manner in which they are usually conducted. But the glory was and is the Lord's.

After the long and tempestuous voyage, it was

pleasing to find, on examination, that no important repairs were required, the vessel having been so well and substantially built. In reference to the ship's company, it is very satisfactory to insert the following extracts: "With a little exception, our sailors have exceeded my most sanguine expectations as to behaviour and conduct in general, but I think no men could have suffered more hardships from the weather than they have endured. For a time we gave them some wine, but whether from its becoming flat and vapid by washing about in the cask, when a quantity of it had been taken out, or with the change from cold to heat, and then to cold again, some of them declined drinking it, on account of its not suiting them, so that they had nothing but water for months together." Again: "It is a little remarkable that, although they have been sometimes wet, and in wet clothes, not for a day or two, but for a week together, when their teeth have chattered with cold, with no warm food, the sea having put the fires out, even below the deck, and the water filtering through the deck on their beds below, and not a dry garment to change, — yet not a single instance of the cramp has occurred amongst them, nor the slightest appearance of the scurvy, even in those who have before-time been afflicted with it, and still bear the marks about them; and with the solitary instance of one man, who was forced to quit the deck for two hours during his watch, from being taken unwell, every man and boy have stood throughout the whole in a remarkable manner. They have

been plentifully supplied with fresh provisions and vegetables since we arrived, and with some malt liquor also; but their character for sobriety and temperance, and general good behaviour, has warranted every reasonable indulgence likely to conduce to their health and welfare."

The following extracts from Daniel Wheeler's later letters, give proof of their continued stability.

"First month, 21st. I have found the advantage of placing our sailors upon rather a different and more respectable footing than those of other ships; and the result has been, so far, that we have had comparatively no trouble with them. It is so common a thing for the shipping to lose their men here, that a few days ago the question was put to me by General Bourke, the governor: 'Have you lost any of your men?' and it is satisfactory to know that some of the strangers who have attended our meetings on board, have, in more than one instance, remarked (as if of rare occurrence) that our sailors look more like healthy, fresh-faced farmers, than men come off a long voyage; the generality of those we see daily have a thin and worn-down appearance, particularly when they belong to ships that supply them daily with ardent spirits; while our sailors have each a quart of beer per day, of weak quality, being brewed, as is customary here, with only sugar and hops, both of which are very cheap."

Daniel Wheeler adds: "I found it advisable to keep up a desire in the crew to make themselves

acquainted with the art of navigation, and this could not be done without their being furnished with materials for its accomplishment, such as quadrants, slates, pens, paper, etc.; and though the expense of such things ultimately devolves upon themselves, yet, at the moment of purchase, the advance of money has been unavoidable on my part."

It is highly satisfactory and encouraging to find, by letters from time to time received, that the seaman who was so powerfully arrested by conviction of the error of his ways, continues to maintain his integrity, conducts himself with propriety, and has recently attended their meetings.

James Backhouse also says on this subject: "It is pleasing to see the seamen of the 'Henry Freeling' instructing one another in nautical observations and calculations: the carpenter is a good navigator, and since he became a steady man he has taken pleasure in instructing the other sailors, who appear to be improving in knowledge and conduct. They strongly exemplify the benefit of temperance principles on board ship. They are allowed beer when it is to be had, and as much tea, coffee, or cocoa as they like. There is no swearing to be heard, and the men have the appearance of comfort, and spend their leisure in improving reading, etc. Happily, neither the captain nor mate makes a foolish mystery about the course of the vessel, such as is common on board many ships, by which the sailors are kept in ignorance, to no purpose, unless it be to enable the captain and officers to puff themselves up with an

unworthy conceit of knowing more than those under them, and keep the sailors in a state of degradation inimical to good morals and conduct."

Second month, 22d, 1835. "To-day the weather is still beautifully fine; our invalids pretty much restored from sea-sickness, and, being the first day of the week, portions of the Holy Scriptures were read to the ship's company assembled upon the deck. During the time of silence in the morning, James Backhouse contrasted and compared the management of a ship at sea with the spiritual progress of each individual, showing the constant attention at all times necessary, in both cases, in order to be enabled to steer a true and steady course towards the great object of our voyage, both as regards an earthly and a heavenly port. The latter part of the forenoon we sat down together in the cabin: towards the conclusion, I thought I was made sensible of a renewal of strength to wrestle for the blessing."

They left Sidney on the 12th of Second month; and James Backhouse being desirous to visit the penal settlement on Norfolk Island, about 1000 miles distant, and not far out of the course to Tahiti, whither Daniel Wheeler was bound, it was arranged that he should be conveyed in the 'Henry Freeling.'

They arrived off the island on the 4th of Third month. Their future being now widely different, the prospect of separation was keenly felt. A private signal, which they were instructed to make by the government at Sidney, having been given, a boat

was discovered coming from the shore, by which James Backhouse and his companion were landed, and shortly after the 'Henry Freeling' was again on the bosom of the broad Pacific.

In his journal, D. Wheeler says, under date Third month, 10th: "Since leaving Norfolk Island, but more particularly within the last three or four days, it has been to me at times a trying, proving season of much strippedness and poverty every way. The loss of the company of our dear friends, with whom we had been pretty closely and sweetly connected for more than five months, either by sea or land, the steady opposition of the winds since we separated, the great distance we have yet to go, the advanced state of the season (towards autumn in these regions), and yet, above all, the absence of Him in whom my soul delighteth, — combined to weigh down and oppress my poor tossed mind, beyond the usual degree, towards nothingness and abasement of self. But in the depths, although unable to draw nigh, I endeavoured to look towards the Holy Temple; I remembered the Lord, and my prayer was, I trust, permitted to come in unto Him; and He remembered a poor unworthy creature, and in His own way and time was graciously pleased to speak comfort, and to seal instruction. The affecting instance of the dear Son of God Himself was brought to my remembrance, 'who was made sin for us, who knew no sin,' and died, 'the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God,' when, in the very act of child-like and lamb-like obedience, and meek submission to His

Holy Father's will, from the extreme depth and weight of suffering upon Him for the sins of poor, lost, guilty man, He poured forth the agonizing query, 'My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?' and I am renewedly persuaded that these trials and proving baptisms are all, in unutterable and inconceivable love and mercy, dispensed for the preservation of that precious life which is hid with Christ in God.

Fourth month, 28th. This morning, about half-past one o'clock, the mountains of the long-looked-for Tahiti were discovered through the gloom upon our lee-bow. It will be eleven weeks to-morrow since we left Sidney, and, with the exception of the equinoctial gale, we have, during the voyage, for the most part, been favoured with fine weather, but with an unheard-of proportion (for these seas) of contrary winds during nearly the whole time, completely setting at naught all former supposed experience. After leaving Norfolk Island, we traversed from twenty-nine to forty degrees of south latitude, in the hope of finding the westerly winds, which usually prevail, to waft us to the eastward, but could never meet with them to any purpose; and, since we entered the trade latitudes, to this day we have been in constant expectation of meeting with the south-east trade-winds, to enable us to fetch the island of Tahiti, and have in this been equally unsuccessful. We have, however, after traversing various zigzag courses over more than 5000 miles of ocean, by the log, since leaving Sidney, been guided to a hair's breadth, in

so remarkable a manner, as to get the first sight of the island when nearly dark, the moon not being twelve hours old at the time. The darkness and the light are both alike to Him who hath been with us, to bless and preserve us; enabling us in degree to 'glory in tribulation,' and to bear even privation, for His name's sake, with peaceful resignation, and not worthy of being recounted, because of the love, and peace, and joy which at seasons have been our happy portion.

Fourth month, 30th. At noon passed through Matavai bay. A canoe with four of the natives came off to us, bringing oranges, guavas, and other kinds of fruit, which we purchased, after much bargaining, for a hank of thread and three small needles to each individual, although the price they first asked was a dollar for each basket: there were five baskets of fruit. We were all pleased with the openness and simplicity of these people. At two o'clock, P. M., we took Jemmy the pilot on board, and immediately entered the channel within the reefs; but after getting through the most dangerous part, it fell calm, which obliged us to drop an anchor for the night, directly opposite the house of George Bicknell, so close to the shore that a mooring-hawser was made fast to one of his cocoanut trees. By this time our deck was covered with the natives. Just as we were ready to go on shore to take tea at George Bicknell's (to whom, as deputy consul, the mail brought from New South Wales had been delivered), the young king (or perhaps it is more correct to say, the husband of the

queen) came on board, with his younger brother and uncle, and several others: they behaved with great openness and cheerfulness, and seemed highly pleased to see us. Our captain was personally known to them already. They soon looked round the vessel, apparently delighted, left us a basket of oranges, and said they would come again to-morrow. To my great rejoicing, the pilot soon after coming on board, informed us (officially) of the disuse of ardent spirits altogether, by saying, 'Rum is no good here.' The total prohibition of spirituous liquors has been so strongly enforced, that they have taken them out of private houses, without exception, and thrown them away; and the natives have carried it to the length of smelling the breath of people, to ascertain whether it had been used, and, if found to be the case, a severe fine was imposed; so that a person well known to lead a thoroughly sober life, was not allowed to have such a thing in his possession, but was liable at any time to undergo a search.

Fifth month, 1st. (*Sixth day.*) At day-break the pilot came on board, and the breeze being favourable, the vessel was got ready, and run gently down to Papeéte harbour: the water was so clear, that the beautifully-spreading branches of coral could be plainly distinguished as we passed over the most shallow parts of the reef. About nine o'clock, A. M., we took up our station in a well-sheltered cove or harbour, surrounded by straggling houses, and plantations of the cocoanut tree, banana, bread-fruit, orange, and sugar-cane, ranging along the edge of

the sea, on the level land at the foot of the mountains. In the forenoon, Dr. Vaughan came on board, who had recently arrived in a whaling vessel from London; and George Pritchard, the resident missionary, soon after. For George Pritchard we were bearers of many letters and parcels, which proved very acceptable. In the afternoon we visited his habitation, and were kindly received by his wife and family. George Pritchard very kindly inquired whether I wished to be at the worship of the Tahitians, next First day; but I informed him that I believed it would be best for me to be with my own crew on that day.

Having endeavoured to keep my mind exercised to ascertain the will of my Lord and Master, it was with me to tell him that the first step which I had to take, was to request a conference with the whole of the missionaries in this district, asking him if they had any stated times for meeting together by themselves; he said they had, but a special meeting could be convened for the occasion. On considering a little, he found that their next quarterly meeting, in regular course, was to be held the second week in the present month. As the month was already come in, I thought it would be unreasonable to subject the parties to the inconvenience of meeting on purpose, as their own meeting would still necessarily have to be held on the appointed day, more especially as I had several affairs to regulate, and preparation to make, to enable us to barter for supplies, etc. At present, I see no farther than to attend this confer-

ence, and there produce the certificates furnished by my dear friends in England, humbly trusting that the path of my future proceeding will be graciously manifested in due time, and strength and perception mercifully afforded to enable me to walk faithfully in it.

I had been unwell on the 12th inst., but, having passed a more favourable night, on the morning of the 13th inst. I felt no hesitation about proceeding to Papáoa, as the day was fair overhead. George Pritchard called with a boat, to take Charles and myself with him, he finding three natives to row, and myself two.

Having understood that, on the present occasion, the principal chiefs from all parts of the island would be there, and a large muster of the inhabitants residing in this district, it occurred to my mind that it would be a favourable medium through which my arrival might be publicly announced to all the distant districts, if at a suitable time my certificates should be read. On mentioning this to George Pritchard, and showing him the translation so kindly made before I left London by William Ellis, he at once saw the propriety, but said it would be necessary to consult Henry Nott, the senior missionary resident at Papáoa, George Pritchard himself being a junior; this was a matter of course, and had I been aware of the distinction, I should myself have proposed it. From the wind having sprung up a fresh breeze against us, we were rather late in reaching our destination, and Henry Nott had taken

his seat in the meeting before we got to it. We followed George Pritchard through a large number of people that were already assembled, until we got up to Henry Nott, who, on being consulted, immediately consented that it should be done, when their service was over. We then took our seats, having kept on our hats until that moment; but the heat of the climate renders it too oppressive to keep them on for any great length of time. We heard of no remark, however, having been made on this head, whatever might have been thought. They commenced by George Pritchard giving out a hymn; then part of the Epistle to the Ephesians was read; after which George Pritchard kneeled down and prayed; another hymn was then sung; after this Charles Wilson preached a long sermon from a text out of the same Epistle; when this was finished, another hymn was given out, at his request, and he afterwards finished with prayer. Some business then came on relating to the affairs of the Missionary Society, when the island queen took her seat as its President. We merely sat as silent spectators through the whole of this, which from beginning to end was conducted in the Tahitian language. As only George Pritchard sat between myself and the queen, I observed that she was employed in reading my certificates, which had been previously laid upon the table. The whole of my certificates were then audibly read in the Tahitian language, by George Pritchard, who took great pains to give ample explanation whenever needful. The marked attention and solidity of coun-

tenance manifested by the wondering Tahitians, was both striking and comforting; and the solemnity which spread over this large assembly had previously covered my mind as with a mantle, contriting my spirit under a sense that the great Master Himself was there. After the reading of the certificates was gone through, profound silence reigned. I asked if I might say a few words, which was at once permitted, and George Pritchard agreed to interpret between me and the people. I requested him just to repeat what I said, and I have reason to believe this was faithfully done, and was, to the best of my recollection, after this manner: 'I have no wish to trespass upon the time of this meeting. I was desirous that these documents or certificates might be read, which would account for a stranger being present, and inform all that I came not here in my own will, but in the will of my Lord and Master, whose I am, and whom I desire to serve to my latest breath; and would also let you know that I came with the full unity and consent of that branch of the Christian Church in England of which I am a member. And now, grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, be multiplied upon all the inhabitants of this land; and may the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, keep our hearts and minds,' etc.

After I sat down, a solemn silence again prevailed, until one of the natives, a supreme judge, broke it

by addressing me by name, which he had caught from the certificates, and declaring, on behalf of himself and the islanders, that the manner of my coming among them was very satisfactory, because what had been read and spoken was in accordance with the gospel which they had been taught, and were acquainted with. He also, at considerable length, touched upon the great distance I had come over the deep waters to see them, and to do them good; that, in return, their hearts, and arms, and habitations, in effect, were open to receive me, duly appreciating the purity and disinterestedness of the motive that had induced the step, having no trade nor other object in view. He hoped I should visit all their schools, and stroke the heads of the children; that he should now deliver them all into my hands. I told George Pritchard to say, that the dear children would always have a strong hold and a strong claim upon my heart. Much more transpired that was truly consoling and comforting; and the missionaries who spoke on the occasion, I truly believe, most fully and cordially co-operated in endeavouring to explain my views to the people in terms of strong approbation.

Although the above may not be exactly verbatim, it is the substance of what passed. When it was all over, Henry Nott kneeled down and concluded the meeting with prayer in the Tahitian. The natives then generally rose from their seats, and began to flock around us, and to shake hands with Charles and myself in a very hearty manner, and without

regard to order, age, or sex, from the humble peasant to the bronze-coloured queen, her two aunts, and the numerous chiefs, who, I think, are the stoutest, most giant-like men I ever saw assembled together. About 800 persons were collected at this meeting, but the house was so extensive, that it seemed impossible to make any accurate estimate; for my own part, I should have supposed the number not less than a thousand. The judge before spoken of, in one of his speeches (for he spoke three times), hinted that they perceived I was not exactly of the same description of Christians that had hitherto come amongst them, or I belonged to a different body. This, however, did not seem to stand in the way. Some days previously to this meeting being held, the young king and several chiefs came on board to breakfast, six in number. After breakfast, our usual reading in the Holy Scriptures was introduced, during which they behaved with great attention and propriety; they sat as still, in the time of silence, both then and at the pause before breakfast, as if accustomed to it. When they were about going away, a telescope, and a piece of handkerchiefs, were presented to the king, and a shawl to each of the others, with which they seemed highly pleased. Through the medium of an Englishman, who had been sent for on the occasion, the king was told that I had something in reserve for Pomáre, the queen, expecting she also would pay us a visit. They behaved with much openness and affability, and told us in plain terms that they liked us, because we

were like themselves, and did not make ourselves very high to them.

Fifth month, 15th. The young king and his brother came on board in a private capacity; their visit was much more agreeable than when attended by several of the principal chiefs. They staid dinner, and remained on board several hours. The simple habits, and gentle, unassuming manner of this young man, do not appear at present to be liable to alter from his having become the husband of the queen. The amiable disposition he possesses, and which cannot be concealed, at once renders him an object of general esteem. He has evidently acquired considerable polish from the intercourse with foreigners, of which he does not fail to avail himself at every opportunity; and although, from this circumstance, his manners are much more civilized than those of his countrymen, yet now and then the wild nature of a South Sea islander shows itself. They brought us some fine bunches of oranges, the largest of which contained eleven in a cluster, and the smallest seven. A sliding knife and fork were presented to each; also a three-bladed knife and a penknife. Shortly after these guests had left us, a chief, by name Páofai, residing near Point Venus, came on board, and made signs that he wished to read my certificates, which were accordingly furnished for his perusal in the Polynesian language, although he could speak more English than any we have yet met with. He is considered a great man, and he was more modest in behaviour than any we have yet seen of

his stamp: having observed, while he read the certificate, that his sight was impaired, I presented him with a pair of spectacles; at the same time a pocket-handkerchief and a small hatchet were given him; upon which he said he had no money to pay for them. Such an honest confession we had not before met with, nor with any person who mentioned payment for what they received. He left us with an acknowledgment of the kindness with which he had been treated, and I believe both parties were satisfied with the interview. In the evening we were engaged in writing notices of the public meeting intended to be held next *First day.*"

CHAPTER IV.

MEETING FOR SAILORS — ATTENDS THE NATIVE MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP — PERILOUS PASSAGE TO TIAREI — NATIVE MEETING.

DANIEL WHEELER was brought into much thoughtful solicitude about the crews of the vessels anchored around them; and seeing no way of being clear of the blood of these poor neglected people, but by appointing a public meeting, it was concluded to arrange one for the next First day. At the appointed time, the decks of the 'Henry Freeling' having been extensively seated, a bethel flag, as a signal well understood by sailors, was hoisted.

The journal states: "The meeting at length settled down into stillness beyond our expectation. I thought there would scarcely be a single individual then present, except our own crew, that had ever before been at a meeting held exclusively after the manner of Friends. In this, however, I found I had been mistaken, as the mate of the 'Lancaster' came on board the next day, and acknowledged he was a member of our Society, though, as he stated, he had not kept close to it. He told us that he little expected to see a Friends' meeting held amongst these islands, but seemed glad of having an opportunity to attend one.

However long the time of silence might be thought, there was no restlessness sufficient to disturb the quiet of the meeting. Unexpectedly to myself, I felt an engagement of mind to state to the meeting, that the religious Society of which I was a member had, from its earliest rise, been called upon to bear a faithful testimony to the excellency of silent worship and waiting upon God; that it was a noble testimony to the all-sufficiency and teaching of that grace which had appeared unto all men, teaching all, and bringing salvation to all, 'for the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared unto all men, etc. looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ,' etc. to the end of the text. 'For God is a Spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth;' and we are told in Holy Writ (by the Son), that 'the Father seeketh such to worship Him.' I was then carried forth on the nature of true, silent, and spiritual worship, to a considerable length; and had to state that my head would not have laid easy upon the pillow at a future day, if the attempt had not been made to collect the seamen of the fleet. That sailors were a class of men more than most others separated from their homes and regular places of worship, particularly on these long voyages upon the mighty deep for months and months together; but that the ample provision made by the glorious gospel for the restoration and redemption of mankind, boundless as its love, extended unto all; for He that said, 'Let there

be light, and there was light;' even 'God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God, in the face of Jesus Christ.' I had largely to proclaim some of the principal doctrines of the gospel, and was helped through, to my humble and thankful admiration. It was indeed a glorious and, I trust, to some a blessed meeting. I had, I think, more than once to call their attention to the heavenly power that reigned over us, with precious solemnity, as a crown and diadem; and, before the meeting closed, I had to acknowledge the same with prayer and thanksgiving, to the glory and the praise of my God. After the meeting was broken up, I requested an individual out of each ship to step forward, when two hundred and twenty-nine tracts, principally those of Friends, were disposed of, including those sent on board the 'Mariner' in the morning. The above is the substance of what I had to deliver in the meeting, which, as it arose fresh in my memory when describing this meeting in my journal, I felt an inducement to transmit thus far, for the satisfaction of my dear friends at home, that they may know what is going on in this remote part of the globe; and to which, but for brevity sake, much more might be added. The masters of the 'Cambria' and 'Kingston' remained on board, and dined with us. Captain Crocker, of the 'Cambria,' has proposed to take letters for us to New Bedford, for which place he is about to sail, and forward them from thence to England."

The attendance of the Tahitian meeting for worship having been for some days a subject for consideration, Daniel Wheeler and his son Charles concluded to land and visit the missionary George Pritchard, on this account. This resulted in an arrangement to be present on the morrow, being First day. It was understood they should sit as spectators while the usual service was proceeded with, and afterwards the way should be open for Daniel Wheeler to speak, if he felt it required of him.

The meeting is thus described: "It was considerably more than half an hour after the fixed time before we entered (what is called) the church, where a large number of persons were collected and collecting. The whole congregation were squatted on the floor, the building being in an unfinished state, and no seats as yet provided: they appeared to occupy the whole of the floor, which is very extensive. While they were proceeding in their usual manner, I endeavoured to draw near to the Fountain of Israel, whose God is, and ever will be, He that giveth strength and power to His people. My heart was softened in an unusual manner, and the creature was brought down into a state of nothingness; tears flowed beyond a capability of restraint; my mind was as a calm, and I was prepared to stand up when the proper moment arrived. A universal stillness now prevailed over the meeting, probably increased by expectation, which had for some time been stamped upon the countenances of the whole assembly.

'God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints,' were the first words uttered by me; which, when interpreted, were followed by — It is not an every-day occurrence for a stranger thus to speak amongst you, probably what you never before witnessed; but it is according to the true order of the gospel that the prophets should speak two or three, that all might learn and all might be comforted—with some more of the text, repeating again, 'For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints;' proceeding with — I have nothing new to offer: the way to the kingdom is the same now as in the beginning: there is no variableness or shadow of turning with that God with whom we have to do: the things of time may vacillate and change, but the Rock of Ages unimpaired remains; it changeth not, 'The foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are His.' This foundation is Christ Jesus, and no other foundation can any man lay than is laid. Every man's work will be made manifest, the day shall declare it, the fire of the Lord will try it; that only will stand which is built on Christ Jesus the righteous, that tried corner-stone, elect of God, and precious indeed to them that believe, though to the Jews a stumbling-block, and to the Greeks foolishness. For this cause, 'God gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life' — with more on this important point. In looking over this large assembly, the love of God has filled

my heart as I have sat amongst you. May the Lord in Heaven bless you! is the language that has arisen therein. It is this love that induced me to come amongst you; it is this love that would gather all into the heavenly garner of rest and peace: endless in duration is the mercy of the Lord; free and unbounded is His love. His love has been long extended to these islands, and covered them as with a mantle. This island has had advantages beyond many others. — I reminded them that many years had now elapsed since the sound of the gospel was first heard in their land; they had long had many parts of the Holy Scriptures in circulation, which from their earliest pages point to the Saviour. It was promised, soon after the fall of man, that the seed of the woman should bruise the serpent's head. Moses declared to the people in his day, 'A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things;' and the soul which will not hear that prophet shall be destroyed from among the people. Which led to the query of what return had been made for all this, and wherein had they been benefited by these great privileges? etc. They had run well for a season: what had hindered them? What had prevented them, that they should have turned again as unto the weak and beggarly elements? If they had obeyed the gospel this would not have been the case; they would by this time have been a pure people for their God. That unless there was a thorough alteration and change, the blessing in-

tended for them would be withdrawn, and the rod would be administered for their iniquity. Continuing, 'Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die;' for your works are not perfect in the sight of God. 'Remember, therefore, how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent:' there is a great work to be done; for where is your hope when the present generation are summoned from works to rewards, if the younger children are not trained in succession?

I then had to call upon the parents to step forward before it was too late: they had all a part to take in it. Tahitian mothers had a large share devolving upon them; much depended upon their influence and example in endeavouring to train up their children with habits of civilized life, by letting them learn to read (which at present is much neglected, and much disliked both by parents and children), that so they might partake in the advantages which are to be derived from the Holy Scriptures: reminding them that 'they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever;' exhorting them not to be overcome with evil, but to overcome evil with (or by) that which is good; that the promises are many, great, and precious, recorded in Holy Writ, to them that overcome, etc. Though, perhaps, more might be expressed than above noted, and with some variation as to the words, yet I believe that what is here inserted is the substance and principal part of what was uttered.

Having finished, I took my seat. Soon after this, George Pritchard concluded the meeting. When the whole congregation rose, the elderly people came forward to shake hands; but being pretty near one of the doors (of which there are four), we were soon carried outside by the current of people turning that way. There were upwards of a thousand people inside of the building, and a considerable number outside also. The doors and windows being all open, those without could hear about as well as those within."

The following reflections occur in Daniel Wheeler's journal, under date of 8th of Sixth month: "The organization of the language, so as to admit the translation of the Holy Scriptures into the native tongue, is a work the importance of which cannot be duly estimated nor conceived, as to the happy result, under the Divine blessing, that is in store for generations yet unborn, any more than the boundary of extent can be defined to which they may be permitted to circulate and diffuse revealed truth in the language of Holy Inspiration. This work, now considered to be near its completion, has been the labour of many years, in a climate wasting to the constitution of every European, as oppressively relaxing from the heat. Henry Nott has been a very laborious servant in this cause, without any regard to the many hardships and privations which the earliest settlers had particularly to encounter, and in which he deeply shared; his constitution is now sinking from long residence and the effects of close sedentary

application: who can doubt for a moment the devotedness of such a man? Great and important are the advantages which such a work is calculated to bestow on mankind, beyond every other, or in comparison with any other outward means of help and comfort; for where can the excellency of the Holy Scriptures be equalled, or to what can they be compared, seeing the writers were divinely inspired? And being thus of heavenly origin and descent, they ever stand unrivalled as profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect and thoroughly furnished to every good word and work, and above all they are able to make wise even to salvation; but it is only through faith which is in Christ Jesus our Lord, to whom their inspired pages point from the earliest age of recorded time."

Having landed on the previous day, they attended the sunrise meeting of the Tahitians at Bunáauia, on the 17th of Sixth month. Their usual service having been gone through, Daniel Wheeler arose, having George Pritchard for an interpreter, and spoke in substance as follows: "The principal burden that rested upon my mind was to turn the attention of the people to the light of Christ Jesus in their own hearts, that their conversation might be such as becometh His gospel. I had to tell them, that although I did not understand their language, yet I was fearful for them, seeing that for every idle word a man shall speak, he must give an account in the day of judgment, for by our words we shall be

justified, and by our words we shall be condemned; believing, and declaring this belief, that a very loose and wanton conversation was a besetting sin amongst them. I had to remind them of the superior advantages bestowed upon these islands, over many others of this part of the habitable globe, by the introduction of Christianity amongst them. Had they obeyed the gospel, the effect of the contaminating example of evil introduced amongst them by distant nations would have been prevented; that the Lord is looking for fruit, and the earth that drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for the use of him by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God; but that which bringeth forth briars and thorns is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing, whose end is to be burned; that the desire of my soul was, that the lamentation once taken up by the Saviour of the world might never be applicable to them as a people: 'O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, etc. how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!' That the love of God had overshadowed these islands in an eminent degree; and I never heard of an instance where the Lord, in matchless mercy, was pleased to send any of His servants amongst a people, but that His love was still towards that people. That Christ Jesus had been often preached to them, but they had not obeyed His gospel: they must repent and obey, and the way to repent and obey is to fear God, and give glory to Him. That

it is the same gospel now as was proclaimed by the angel which John saw flying through the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto every nation and kindred, and tongue and people; saying, with a loud voice, 'Fear God, and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment is come; and worship Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.' Desiring that they might be sensible of that day when the Lord's judgment is come upon all that is of a sinful and transgressing nature, that so they might indeed fear Him, and in thought, word, and deed give glory unto Him, and thus be prepared to worship Him in spirit and in truth; for it is such the Father seeketh to worship Him. That 'God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, had shined in our hearts,' and to this saving light I wished to turn them, etc. etc. The people were generally very attentive, and a solemn covering was permitted to prevail over us. On rising from our seats, they gathered around us in the usual way. Being previously acquainted with Utami, a principal chief in that neighbourhood, we met like old friends, who knew and loved each other, if his love for me was the same as I felt for him. We got out into the air as soon as we well could, in order to escape some of the usual greetings, not feeling in a condition, from weakness and exhaustion, to accept of all the kindness intended by these people.

Sixth month, 20th. George Pritchard came on board in the forenoon, and assisted in arranging a

plan for accomplishing our visit to the remaining and most distant districts upon the island of Tahiti. It was concluded best for us to set off this afternoon towards Tiarei. As the wind blew fresh, about sunset was considered the proper time to proceed as far as Point Venus, presuming the strength of the wind would lessen as the evening approached. It was proposed that we should remain at Point Venus until two o'clock in the morning, and then push forward so as to reach Tiarei about day-break, before the trade-wind set in, which is mostly pretty strong, and generally from the quarter to which we were bending our course. All things being ready, we left the 'Henry Freeling' soon after four o'clock, the wind having materially lessened by the fall of some rain, and it still continued to get lighter as we proceeded. As there was every indication of clear and serene weather long before reaching the first place of intended destination, it was suggested by our native boat's crew, that we should not make much stay there, but push forward while the wind and sea were gentle. The principal motive for wishing to stop by the way at all, was to lessen the fatigue of these men, by dividing the journey into two parts, so that they might rest between them; but they were well aware that the whole distance could be performed at once, in calm weather, with much more ease than if divided, and time given for rest, if the wind and sea should rise against them, although but in a moderate degree. Just before dark, we landed upon the shore of Point Venus, the place from

whence the celebrated navigator, Captain James Cook, observed the transit of the planet Venus on the disk of the sun. Opposite this part of the coast of Tahiti, which we had next to traverse, there is no sheltering coral-reef for its protection; so that the remainder of our journey was now exposed to the whole beat of the Pacific Ocean, and can only be performed when the weather is moderate.

Having with us Samuel Wilson, we were readily conducted to the habitation of his father, Charles Wilson, the resident missionary at this station, and were kindly entertained by the family. As the passage round Point Venus is very intricate, and the water particularly shoal, the boat was taken round to the other side, while we were partaking of some refreshment. We lost no time in preparing again to embark. The crew met us with a native torch, made of the dry branching leaves of the cocoanut tree, which, with our own lantern, lighted the intricate narrow path among the bushes, and was particularly useful at the sea-side, the night being now very dark. As the night advanced, we were helped by a gentle land breeze, so that the labour of the oars was a little diminished by the addition of a sail being set to catch it. There was an experienced elderly native employed at the stern-oar of our whale-boat, whose course seemed to be principally directed by the white tops of the rolling surf, as it broke upon the coast near to which he mostly kept. Off one rocky point of land it became needful to

turn off with a wide sweep towards the offing, to escape a projecting ridge of rocks, the outermost extremity of which was defined by the termination of breakers. By ten o'clock, P. M., it was declared that we were abreast of Tiarei; but the night was so dark, that the narrow entrance through the reef to it could not be distinguished even by the eagle-eyed Tahitians. The boat's mast was struck, and one of the natives stationed in the front, with Samuel Wilson, to look out; and her head being turned shore-wards, we edged gently down towards the foaming breakers, which were bursting on the rocky strand with thundering noise. As the rowing had now altogether ceased, the boat drifted only at the rate at which the swell of the sea hove her along — a measure highly prudent until the dangerous pass we had to go through was clearly ascertained, as was quickly afterwards sufficiently demonstrated, though at the moment such tardy proceeding might seem to protract the term of suspense. Having silently proceeded for some time in this way, and, from the increasing roar of the restless waters, evidently drawing nearer and nearer to the margin of the crags, on a sudden there were symptoms of alarm, which could not be mistaken, on the part of the boat's crew, who now perceived that we had missed the only entrance that afforded a passage to the shore; and, from our present position, a large lump of rock was in the way to the mouth of the channel, which the boat could not possibly escape. Our poor Tahitians immediately jumped into the sea, and did all they could to save

the boat from being dashed to pieces, but they could not prevent her from striking. She, however, only struck once, and lay quiet, the wave having so far receded that she did not float enough to beat; and the next roller that came in, instead of filling her with water, carried her completely over this obstruction. But it was difficult for some time to ascertain whether the worst was now over or not, for our men began to howl and shout, the meaning of which we could not comprehend. It afterwards appeared that this was done to rouse the sleeping natives on the shore, who, well understanding this yell, shortly came running with lighted torches to our assistance, and a few minutes placed us once more upon *terra firma*. As the boat could not get close in, one of these men very soon had me upon his back, to prevent my getting wet. Samuel Wilson and my son Charles were landed in the same way. The journey altogether had been more speedy, and in many respects more favourable, than is often witnessed, until we came to the last pinch, when the never-failing arm of Almighty power was again displayed in the needful time for our relief. As we were strangers to the language of the people, and could render them no assistance whatever, and as any attempt to direct their efforts must only have increased the general confusion, we therefore sat silent beholders of what was going forward, committing ourselves to Him who saw our perilous situation through the darkened gloom, and did not suffer the briny waters to prevail against us, but, in love and mercy and compassion,

stretched forth His hand to save. As to myself, I may say, my heart was fixed, trusting in the Lord, whose loving-kindness is better than life. He was with us of a truth, in fulfilment of His gracious promise, and we were not confounded. I desire to record this signal favour with humble thankfulness and reverence, to His praise and to His glory. We soon reached the mission-house, where William Henry resides, to whom we were all personally known, and by whom and his wife we were kindly accommodated for the night; although, from their secluded situation, but little in the way of receiving strangers, and in so abrupt a manner, at an hour so unseasonable, as they could not have had the least idea of our coming. Much sleep could not be obtained, yet we passed the night in quietness, and I felt refreshed at rising.

Tiarei, 21st. Previously to the commencement of the Tahitian worship, at nine o'clock in the morning, the time was pretty fully occupied with the family devotion and taking breakfast; after which we repaired to the meeting-house, it being agreed, if I should have any thing to speak to the people, that Samuel Wilson was to stand as interpreter. This was a relief to William Henry (and also to myself), as he had quite as much to go through as his strength was equal to, he being far advanced in years. After William Henry had shown us to a seat, he went into the pulpit, Samuel Wilson remaining not far from us. At this distance, although not very remote from the contaminating effects of

the shipping, the difference in appearance, and in the general deportment of the people, was discernible throughout the greater part of the congregation, which was large. Being comforted by the sensible presence of the great Master, my mind was strengthened in an unusual manner, but not until after a season of humiliating conflict had been passed through, in order and preparatory, I believe, that the excellency of the power might be felt and known, and acknowledged to be of God, and not of us, nor of any thing that we can command or call our own."—When the usual engagements of the meeting were gone through, Daniel Wheeler observes: "I stood up, and beckoned to Samuel Wilson to draw nearer to me. We went into a position a little more central, near the table, and under a solemn covering, after a short interval of silence, I said—'I am fully persuaded in my own mind, that you, my beloved people, will suffer a few words from a stranger, who is with you in the fear, and in the love, and, I may add, in the will of God, and not in my own; and therefore I stand amongst you with innocent boldness, because I seek not yours, but you, that immortal part in you which must sooner or later have a being in endless felicity, or in endless misery. Declaring unto them that there is no alteration in the Christian course — the warfare is continual, and can only be maintained and accomplished with burning and fuel of fire, by the cleansing operation of that burning which the spirit of judgment produces, and that unquenchable fire of the Lord which consumeth the chaffy and transgressing nature

in our hearts; and, if submitted to, would prepare and purify us, even as He is pure, for a kingdom consisting not in meats and drinks, but in righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost—a kingdom where nothing that is unclean, nothing that is impure, nothing that worketh an abomination, or that maketh a lie, can ever enter. Whilst I have been sitting with you, my heart has been filled with the love of God towards you; raising in it a fervent desire that every individual, from the least to the greatest, might be numbered among the ransomed and redeemed of the Lord, who shall return and come to Sion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads, from whom sorrow and sighing shall flee away.' But I had to tell them that a great and individual work must be accomplished before these gracious and prophetic promises are realized. The indignation of the Lord must be patiently borne for sin, and for transgression, until He should arise and plead their cause, and execute judgment for them, and in His own time say, It is enough; and bring them forth to the light, even the light of Christ Jesus, in whom they will then behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. This light shineth in every heart, and is the true light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world, in which only the righteousness of Christ Jesus is witnessed to be brought forth and beheld. That when the precious blood of Christ was shed for the sins of all mankind, He ascended up on high; He led captivity captive, and received gifts for men,

even for the rebellious also, that the Lord God might dwell among them, even among sinners, such as themselves and me. That a measure or manifestation of the gift of the Holy Spirit is given to every man to profit withal; and well will it be for those who are profiting thereby, and faithfully occupying therewith. I then had to remind them of the great things which the Lord had done for them; that the gospel sound had long been heard in their land; that many parts of the Holy Scriptures had been translated into their native tongue, which directed them to the Saviour—to the Word which was in the beginning, that was with God, and was God. And after enlarging much farther (although I think what I have stated are the principal heads that were touched upon), I sat down poor and empty, yet satisfied with favour, and full with the blessing of the Lord. Instead of the congregation beginning to separate immediately, in a hasty manner, as we have sometimes witnessed, even the dear children kept their seats, with the whole of the company: a delightful pause ensued (short, but crowned with that solemnity not at our command), during which I humbly trust the thanksgiving of many redounded to the glory of God. Silence was at last broken by one of the chiefs expressing, on behalf of the assembly and himself, their thankfulness and satisfaction, and how welcome my visit had been to them; because, he said, 'you have preached to us the everlasting gospel, and have shown to us the propitiatory sacrifice for the sins of mankind, Christ Jesus'—with

something farther, which, when interpreted, I was fearful attached too much to the creature; and I requested Samuel Wilson to tell them not to look to the creature, but to their Creator. The whole of the people still continued together (about eight hundred persons), and seemed as if they knew not how to begin to separate, until some person, I think, proposed their shaking hands with us, which immediately commenced, and exceeded all we had before met with."

On another occasion they were met by Tahtee, the greatest orator of the islands, and one of the two who stand as champions for the general welfare of the country. He invited them to his house, and refreshed them with the milk of the cocoa-nut. He said that although many improvements had been introduced by foreigners coming amongst them, yet we might perceive they still retained many of their old habits and customs, alluding to their domestic arrangements, squatting upon the floor, etc. The house exhibited more of an air of comfort and industry than any they had before seen: cloth, fishing-nets, etc. were lying about, of native manufacture

CHAPTER V.

TAIARAPU — FAVOURED MEETING FOR WORSHIP — LETTER FROM THE NATIVE CONGREGATION — NATIVE ENTERTAINMENT — LETTER FROM THE QUEEN — DESOLATING SCOURGE OF ARDENT SPIRITS — ISLAND OF EIMEO.

THE sun was nigh setting when they reached Taiarapu, the missionary station to which they were destined; but the beauty and various scenery of this part of the island served to enliven the last hour of a long day's exposure to the sun. The stupendous mountains, however steep and rugged, were clothed in the richest and fullest manner with every kind of forest and fruit tree which flourish in these tropical climates, where perpetual summer reigns; their luxuriance only now and then interrupted by falls of water hurrying down the steep declivities, in beautiful cascades, to the vales underneath; but the noise of these numerous cataracts is at once overpowered and lost in the roar of the mighty Pacific, whose waves incessantly thunder in endless succession upon the shores and reefs of Tahiti.

The meeting at this station is thus described: "At four o'clock, P. M., the people assembled in the meeting-house, where I had full opportunity to clear my mind towards them. The district on this peninsula being quite distinct from those on the other, it

was needful that my certificates should be read, as none of the people could have previously heard them. They were read, accordingly, with ample explanation, by J. M. Orsmond, before I stood on my feet. The people were turned to the light of Christ Jesus in their own hearts. They were told that their being members of an outward and visible Church would not avail them in the great and awful day of account; that they must be members of the true gospel Church, the Church triumphant, whose names are written in Heaven; and unless this was attained whilst here, it would be too late, for it cannot be done hereafter; there is no work nor device in the grave, etc. Showing them how the primitive believers, through the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel, attained to it in their day, and that it is equally as attainable at this day, through the purifying operations of the Holy Spirit. I urged and encouraged them to persevere in this great and important work, earnestly desiring that they might not rest satisfied with an empty profession, but that they might come into the possession of the inestimable pearl, the pearl of great price, the truth as it is in Jesus.

It was indeed a solid and solemn opportunity, and one of those which I afterwards learned left the people hungering, I trust, for heavenly bread; whilst to myself it was productive of that soul-enriching peace which can only be purchased by sharing in the blessed Master's cup of sufferings, of which I had drank, and under which I had been heavily

bowed down during the afternoon, before going to the meeting, and there also. And now how can I sufficiently acknowledge and declare the condescending mercy and loving-kindness of my gracious Lord God, who in a particular manner was pleased to warm the hearts of those dear people with His life-giving presence, making it an occasion truly memorable, and causing many of them to rejoice and abound with thanksgiving to His praise and to His glory. The same evening the deacons of the church (two), Tetohi and Puna by name, came to J. M. Orsmond's house, and, being seated with us, one of them produced a letter, written on behalf of the congregation at Tea-hu-poo, which, being directed to Daniel Wheeler, was opened by myself, and when literally translated by Samuel Wilson, and examined by J. M. Orsmond, and by him approved, was found to contain the address that followeth:

Translated copy, dated at

'*Tea-hu-poo*, 26*th of June*, 1835.

Dear Friends.—The ministers with the Brethren and Sisters in London.

Peace be unto you, in the true God Jehovah, and in Jesus Christ his Son, who came into the world to save sinful men—we indeed are sinful men. Here is Daniel Wheeler amongst us; and he has made known unto us all the good words of Jesus Christ. And comfort has grown in our hearts; and great pleasure has been to us from his words, concerning the words of Jesus the Messiah.

It was indeed very great pleasure in his saying to us, Jesus is the pearl of great price. It is a pearl good within, and good without. And many have been the good words that he has spoken to us. Now indeed we know assuredly he has true love to the brethren and sisters in all places where the things of Jesus are held. In that love he has come amongst us; and indeed our love is grown towards him and his son, in their making known on their way the things of Jesus, and in their visit of love to all the brethren, and in inviting all to enter in to Jesus the Messiah.

Signed on behalf of the Church,

PUNA.'

At the breaking up of the meeting in the afternoon, I told J. M. Orsmond that I felt so much love to these people, I thought I should see them again; when he proposed to meet me at the out-station on the other side of the peninsula next First day but one, where he said he would collect the whole of the people from this place, and from the two other stations. I could not speak decisively at the moment, though expectation was given that it might probably be so. Since this conversation I have recollected that, on leaving Tiarei last First day, we were told that the people from an out-station of that district had just arrived, in expectation that we should be again at the meeting in the afternoon. It seems right for me to go to the out-station on the other side of the peninsula, called Tautira; and I find, on

inquiry, that the Tiarei out-station can be visited at the same time, but that it will require fine weather and a smooth sea to effect it. It must, however, be left for the present with Him who knows the thoughts of all our hearts, before whom I desire to stand in humble resignation and willingness to go or to stay, as seemeth Him good. The two men who came with the letter before mentioned (Tetohi and Puna), remained with us until near midnight; and I think it may be said, that by the breaking of bread our spiritual eyes were opened to perceive that the great Master was there, in marvellous condescension and mercy, to bless the opportunity. It was indeed a heavenly banquet; and some of us, who had lain many days in the grave, were now, like Lazarus, permitted to sit at the table with their Lord. I was reminded of the Passover, and was constrained to declare amongst them—This is the true supper; this is the sacrament indeed, as you call it. It could not be denied, for the Lord's power was over all. One of those present observed more than once: 'This is what is so much wanting amongst us, spiritual religion; this is what is so much wanting.'" Daniel Wheeler then proceeds: "Hearken to the invitation of the Bridegroom of souls, held forth in the language of holy inspiration, 'Eat, O friends; drink, yea, drink abundantly, O beloved!' Sweet is His voice, and His countenance comely. Let us hearken, that so we may be favoured to hear it. Let us wait for it with our lamps trimmed, and our lights burning, with girded loins, like men that are waiting

indeed for the coming of their Lord; for sweet is His voice, even the voice of Him, the same, and no other, who said, 'Behold I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.' Then let us hearken, so that we may hear, and be ready to open the doors of our hearts, that the King of Glory may come in. Blessed and happy are they that hear and obey; they share in the highest, greatest, and richest heavenly favour bestowed on earth by the quickening Spirit of the Lord from Heaven, upon poor, frail, mortal dust. These 'behold the King in his beauty,' and cannot refrain from declaring to others, that sweet is His voice, and his countenance comely."

On their return, they passed through an opening of the reef, with a strong current, where the boys were amusing themselves in the surf, by lying at full length on their backs upon boards, and letting the rolling, curling breakers whirl them precipitately down the liquid precipice to the gulf below. Some of the boys best acquainted with this slippery sport, by watching the proper moment to launch forth, were hurled with great velocity to considerable distances, without being dislodged from their slippery board; while the unskilful would be impetuously rolled over by the curling wave, and for a time hidden in the foam below.

A native entertainment is thus described: "Having had but little to refresh us since leaving Point Venus the preceding evening, two o'clock the next afternoon

was rather a late breakfast hour; the resident natives had, however, lost no time in preparing some food for us. After our arrival, they killed and roasted whole a good-sized pig, upon hot stones, covered over with leaves and then with wood-ashes, with bread-fruit, tarro, and the mountain plantain. When this 'feeding,' as they term it, was ready, and the floor covered over to a considerable extent with the large leaves of the purau-tree, it was presented to us in a formal manner, with a bundle of the island cloth (made from the beaten bark of the bread-fruit tree), according to the custom of the country. The company then sat down upon the floor, consisting of Samuel Wilson, Charles, and myself, with the boat's crew close to us, but, according to usage, forming a distinct party. One of our men, who had acted the part of cook, cut up the pig, using a knife with one hand, and holding the victim with the other. We had a solemn pause before beginning to dine, and all remained still until this was over. When the carver had well separated the pig into a variety of shapeless lumps, he threw some of them to us, and the rest to his comrades, and the whole was pretty soon out of sight. The milk of fresh-pulled young cocoa-nuts furnished our drink, and salt water, in calabashes, fresh from the Pacific, to dip the food in, was used instead of salt: this we found to be an excellent substitute. When nearly ready to depart, about six yards off a piece of pocket-handkerchiefs was given to the man that had charge of the premises during the absence of the owner. It may be said that we

dined in public, as the place was pretty well crowded with lookers-on, principally women and children."

At Tautira they were conducted to the residence occupied by the queen, when there. "In a short time after reaching these premises, our attention was awakened by the voice of a person speaking aloud, in as high a tone as could be well imagined. This man, we were told, was the queen's speaker, who was come in *her* name, that of the *church*, and of the whole of the *inhabitants*, to welcome us to Tautira. On going to him at the door, he delivered a sort of congratulatory address, which happily was soon over, as the man spoke so loud as to be quite fearful to our ears. After partaking of some refreshment in true Tahitian style, the deacons and some others of the congregation assembled in the room, and one of them read a portion of Scripture, and prayed at considerable length. When this was finished, a general conversation followed, principally on our coming to visit them, and of a serious nature. We retired to rest about nine o'clock: J. M. Orsmond stretched himself upon a strong bench with a back to it, something like a sofa, Samuel Wilson upon a mat on the floor, and Charles and myself upon a mat spread over a raised frame, and supported by open work, made from the bark of a tree, which I thought an excellent bed. At this place I found my gimlets particularly useful in keeping my clothing a considerable height above the floor, by which they were not only out of the damp, but avoided the vermin, which were very annoying, and of various kinds. A house-

lizard was caught upon the wall in the course of the evening; and although the house had been built several years, it had never had doors, so that dogs, rats, etc. had free access to any part of it. It was, however, to myself a peaceful and comfortable asylum."

A letter was received from the queen, of which the following is a literal translation:

"*Tahiti*, 30*th of June*, 1835.

I do away with the money for the anchoring of the vessel. This is the reason why I do away with it, because thine is a visit of love, and not a trading voyage. If it was a trading voyage, it would not be done away with: I would still demand the money for the anchoring: but because thine is a visit of love, I have not therefore demanded the money.

(*Signed*) POMARE V.

Health to thee and thy son in your (two) voyaging. Na Daniella Wira."

On the island of Tahiti, many other deeply interesting meetings were held with the natives and with the crews of the shipping during his stay of four months, but the limits of our small volume will not admit of their being introduced into its pages. He left its shores in the latter part of the Eighth month, 1835, for the neighbouring island of Eimeo.

No circumstance attending our dear friend Daniel Wheeler's interesting visit to the South Sea Islands, appears to have more painfully affected his feelings,

than the observation forced upon him, from place to place, of the demoralizing and devastating effects of the intercourse of the natives with the crews of vessels visiting their shores. In some letters, not forming a part of his journal, he thus alludes to the subject:

"We find that the voyages of the whaling-vessels are much longer than formerly, their success being more precarious and uncertain, owing to the increased number of ships engaged in that employ, which constantly disturb a great breadth of ocean, by looking over several hundred square miles of its surface every day; so that the fish are becoming scarcer, and more shy than formerly. We should rejoice to hear of any cause that would reduce the number of shipping which visit these islands for supplies, and to refit; as they only tend to diminish their population, by bringing spirituous liquors amongst the people, and by keeping alive a disease, the ravages of which are destroying whole families, both old and young, to an extent little contemplated in England, and truly painful and distressing to be an eye-witness to, and which is greatly aggravated by the use of ardent spirits. Surely, something will be done to stop this desolating scourge of the human race. It is the suffering case of an afflicted, injured people, and calls for the attention, and that speedily, of the legislature of every country, but particularly of England and America, which are the nations principally implicated in this dreadful traffic. Scarcely a ship arrives, but what has for sale rum, muskets, and

gunpowder, for all of which the natives are extremely eager; many of these are denominated 'temperance ships,' and yet are engaged in producing madness amongst the natives, by furnishing means of intoxication; at the same time supplying them with weapons of destruction, to complete their misery. We have seen much of this since our lot has been cast amongst them; and though the use of spirits is forbidden, and the article itself is destroyed when found, yet there are too many who carry on the trade in an underhand manner; and of late there has been more and more of its effects to be seen. Those who have it in their power effectually to stop it, are in their hearts desirous that it should be allowed: they not only like it themselves, but are fully aware how profitable the sale is to those that deal in it.

If my friends at home could witness for themselves the state of many of the islands in these seas, which we have visited, lamentation, and mourning, and woe, must inevitably be their portion. Rum, muskets, and gunpowder, are articles brought in great abundance, particularly by the American ships, many of which are styled 'temperance ships.' It is an absolute fact, incontrovertible, that vessels of this description have landed larger quantities of spirits on some islands than any other class of ships. On almost every island the population decreases, and the dreadful ravages made by disease are much aggravated by the use of spirits."

At Eimeo his certificates were read by the resident missionary, Alexander Simpson, who kindly offered

to assist in promoting the object of his visit. Religious meetings were held in different parts. On one occasion he attended the missionary school, and after some scriptural exercises were finished, spoke as follows: "'We, through the Spirit, wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.' Sitting in silence may seem a little strange to those unaccustomed to the work, but it has been the practice of the religious Society of which I have the privilege of being a member, from its earliest rise, to wait upon the Lord for the influence of the Holy Spirit; to be taught by the great Teacher of His people, Christ Jesus, the minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle, 'which the Lord pitched and not man.' I had to tell them that there is no alteration in the Christian life; it is a continual warfare, but with the spiritual weapons of burning and fuel of fire, which, if patiently submitted to, would purify and prepare us for an incorruptible and never-fading inheritance. The universality of Divine Grace was freely spoken of, and the necessity of watchfulness and prayer urged with earnestness, even unto 'praying always, with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance.' The dear young people were tenderly invited to seek after that knowledge which is life eternal; to 'commune with their own hearts and be still.' I wanted them to witness the gospel to be glad tidings of great joy to themselves, not a mere outward declaration of good things to come, but 'the power of God unto salvation,' to every one of them. Meekness and lowliness, those

heavenly virtues, and first principles of the religion of Jesus, which characterize the Christian — taught by Him, and which all must learn of Him — were exalted; while pride and arrogance, and other concomitant evils, were trampled under foot. None could be insensible to the weight of solemnity which prevailed, and I had to acknowledge the condescending mercy of that Almighty power which was pleased to own the work, and also to appeal to those present as witnesses to the circulation of that 'life' which is 'the light of men.'"

At another time, the queen and all the principal authorities of the island, as well as that of Tahiti, were present; when D. Wheeler felt called upon plainly to present the evils that would result from the use of strong drink. He told them it was in their power to resist the temptation; for no temptation will be permitted to assail without a way being made for our escape. "Draw nigh unto God, and He will draw nigh unto you; resist the devil, and he will flee from you." Some of the people were offended, and left, but those in authority remained. Paofai, one of the principal chiefs, said afterwards that he "hoped I would go to Britain, and beg the people to have mercy upon them; and then go to America, and beg the people there also to have mercy upon them, because it was those countries that sent the poison amongst them." A fact not less true than lamentable.

A closing meeting was held with the missionary families, which is thus noticed: "After the silence

was broken into with a short remark, I told them there might not be many words, but the desire of my heart was that we might be sensible of the power which was before words were, and would remain when words shall be no more; for words shall cease, and declarations come to an end, but the 'Word of our God shall stand for ever.' I had to urge the necessity of seeking to know for ourselves the Divine Will, and then to do it: that this was the great business of life, etc. But knowledge only makes our condemnation greater, without obedience keeps pace with it; and truly this knowledge can never be attained in the noise and bustle, and mixture of this world; nor while we are living in conformity therewith, or conformed thereto. Nor can we expect to be entrusted with such great knowledge as the will of God, whilst in a carnal, unrenewed state of mind, according to the testimony of the apostle to the Romans, when beseeching his brethren, 'by the mercies of God, to present their bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, as their reasonable service.' And 'be not conformed to this world,' said he, 'but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.' I had to declare the blessed state of the inhabitants of Mount Zion, where every one appeareth before God: they go from strength to strength: God is in the midst of her: she can never be moved: 'He is known in her palaces for a refuge.' The stream of gospel love flowed freely and largely to all present,

and great was the solemnity that prevailed over us; such was the condescending mercy and loving-kindness of the Lord to His poor unworthy creatures. We then took leave of the whole, not expecting to visit them again, and returned on board to dinner, under feelings of gratitude and thankfulness, and in peaceful serenity of mind, not conscious of having any farther service to attend to in this island."

CHAPTER VI.

HUAHINE — INVITATION FROM MAUIUI — MEETING WITH THE AUTHORITIES—RAIATEA—BOLABOLA—SANDWICH ISLANDS — OAHU — NATIVE MEETING — THE QUEEN'S PRESENT — MEMORABLE MEETING FOR WORSHIP—MISSIONARY SCHOOL.

HUAHINE was the next island visited, where they were affectionately received by the missionary, Charles Barff. The journal states: "Tenth month, 18th. (*First day.*) Last evening my certificates in the Polynesian language were handed to Charles Barff, to read at the native meeting this morning, if nothing should prevent my attendance. May the Lord be pleased to exalt His ever excellent name, and magnify His power amongst us, until the blessed Truth shall rise into dominion, and reign over all, to His glory.

Tenth month, 22d. Soon in the morning received a few lines from Charles Barff, accompanying a translated copy of a note, with the original, from Mauiui, our pilot through the reef, as follows:

'As I know not the names of you two gentlemen, I address you thus generally.

Dear Friends. — All peace to you after living through the waves all the way to Tahiti. This is my little word, that I desire you two to agree to.

Compassionate me, and come to my little dinner, about one or two of the day — a little friendly meeting.

May you two be saved by Jehovah,

MAUIUI.'

An answer was returned to Charles Barff, that, rather than disappoint the intended kindness of Mauiui, we purposed accepting the invitation. It being *Fifth day*, we sat down together to wait upon the Lord. As regards myself, I thought I was sensible of something like a renewal of strength to struggle against the infirmities of the flesh, in drawing nigh to the everlasting fountain. About the time fixed, repaired to Mauiui's house, and found the company assembled, consisting of the lawful queen of the island and her husband, the young queen, Maihara (who is to have full possession of the island next week), and her husband, brother to the husband of Pomare, the queen of Tahiti; Mahine, the governing chief, and his wife, and the two chiefs next in rank upon the island, and their wives; the king of Raiatea's eldest daughter, and several younger branches of the chief families. A plentiful supply of provisions was set before us, with a variety of vegetables. Yams, plantains, sweet potatoes, bread-fruit, taro, etc.; cocoa-nut milk, sweetened lime-juice and water, and plain water, were the beverages made use of. The company appeared upon the same level; no distinction of persons was visible. Harmony and good-will were the prevalent feelings

throughout. The host and his wife waited upon their guests with much delight and unwearied attention. It was afterwards ascertained that this female had been brought up in the family of Charles Barff.

23d. The authorities of this island are in the practice of occasionally meeting together, and they usually solicit the company of strangers that may be among them, taking care to fix the day for collecting when these can attend. Several days ago we were informed that such a meeting was in contemplation, and to-day being agreed upon for holding it, Charles and myself were requested to attend.

The children were collected in the forenoon at the meeting-house, and afterwards formed no insignificant part of the guests at the dinner-tables. We dined out of doors, under the shade of large trees adjoining the queen's apartments. More than one thousand persons were present, including lookers-on, and the festival altogether was highly interesting.

The company was exhorted by several of the principal speakers, and the dear children were again and again reminded of the privileges enjoyed by these islands in their day and generation. They were told that, in the days of superstition and idolatry, many of them would have been offered as human sacrifices; that some of the boys might have been permitted to live, if their parents were of high rank, but the girls were often sacrificed, and many of the boys thus preserved would be afterwards killed, being kept only for the purposes of war. But now look round (said one of these orators) at the comforts and

blessings we enjoy; and how did they all come, but by the introduction of Christianity amongst us? It was all the goodness, and mercy, and love of Jehovah, in sending the gospel among us. Several of these speakers, on beginning, addressed themselves to us, in terms of welcome and approbation. One said (alluding to myself), 'Your address to us last Sabbath day in the chapel astonished us; I thought you had got the Bible in your head. We are happy to have a teacher come among us; then we have two teachers, one within, and one without. You told us that a mere outward profession of religion was nothing; that it would not benefit us. The Holy Spirit of the Messiah in the heart is what we must learn to be acquainted with, and that all the work is within ourselves,' etc. He said: 'We have formerly been a very wicked people; our island has been worse than any other island in these seas. Captain Cook said so: he found us so: we were the greatest thieves he met with. Captain Cook shot several of us; and if we had provoked him farther, he would have shot more of us. But your visit to us is not like his; yours is in love to our souls,' etc. In this manner the time was occupied for the space of two hours, when a hymn was sung, and afterwards a short prayer made by one of the chiefs, when the company dispersed with as much order and quietness as the breaking up of a Friends' meeting in England. I could have said on the spot, 'It is good for us to be here,' for the love of the blessed Master flowed through my heart, and softened the creature, as into

clay fit for the potter's use. It was at this island that Captain Cook caused the ears of several of the natives to be cut off, for committing petty thefts on board the ships, and in other respects used them very cruelly."

On the 30th they made all sail for Raiatea. On this island a meeting was held which numbered upwards of a thousand. This was the most attentive audience they had yet assembled with. The solemnizing power of Truth reigned over all. It closed in great quietness, and the people crowded round to shake hands. The strangers were invited to partake of a dinner, at which some of the best speakers among the natives enlarged in an impressive manner upon the privileges they now enjoyed, contrasting their present state with the time when heathenism reigned unmolested. The following week they left for the island of Bolabola. Here the people had, through yielding to the habit of intoxication, mostly relapsed into their former idolatrous and licentious practices. A meeting was held with some of the most abandoned, in which they were exhorted "to let the Lord God be their fear, and let Him be their dread." These wild, thoughtless people were attentive; their haughty and airy looks were changed into those of serious thoughtfulness, by that Almighty Power which controlleth the hearts of all men. The poverty and wretchedness which was seen among the children and parents deeply affected Daniel Wheeler, his errand being in that love which called sinners to repentance, and sought their salvation. "I can never,"

he says, "forget the abject, wretched state of these people, with scarcely rags to cover them, in want of every thing, and possessing nothing to purchase any thing with, their little property being consumed in order to obtain spirits; the famished appearance, also, of the more than half-naked children who abound, will long retain a place in my memory, in that love which must ever intercede in behalf, and plead the cause, of suffering humanity. The little things used to come on board to us; and when on shore, we were surrounded in a few minutes by delighted groups of them. My heart often revisits Bolabola, and gladly would I bind up her wretched inhabitants in the Lord's bundle of life for ever."

Their course was now directed to the Sandwich Islands. After a stormy passage of about six weeks, they arrived at Oahu, and anchored in the harbour of Honolulu on the 26th of Twelfth month. On these islands the missionaries are exclusively from the American Board of Missions. A cordial invitation was at once extended by Hiram Bingham, the senior missionary, who came on board. By arrangement, a meeting was held on the following First day at the native place of worship, which proved a memorable occasion. His certificates having been first read and explained to the people, a solemn silence prevailed. Daniel Wheeler then rose and said: "It is more than probable that the greater part of the company now assembled never before heard of the existence of a Society under the denomination of Friends (alluding to my certificates); but, my be-

loved people, all such as love the Lord Jesus Christ, and keep His commandments, are friends — friends universally to God, friends to one another, and friends to all mankind. 'Ye are my friends,' said Christ, 'if ye do whatsoever I command you.' All such are members of the same society, the world over. Then, charging the people to endeavour to draw nigh unto God, that, under the sanctifying influence of His power and life-giving presence, our meeting together might be rendered a blessing, I was largely opened to declare the everlasting Truth amongst them, and to turn them to its light in their own hearts; to the Holy Spirit of Him who is 'the true light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world,' in whom only there is life, and who is the only way to God the Father, as declared by Himself: 'I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh to the Father but by me.' That a mere outward profession of religion would prove altogether unavailing to them: the great work of regeneration must be witnessed: that, to be members of the true Church, they must be redeemed with judgment from sin and from transgression, and be converted unto God by the righteousness of Christ Jesus, believed in and submitted to through faith in the operation of the Spirit of God, who raised Him from the dead, with whom also they must be raised from death unto life. That we cannot worship God in the manner He requires while we continue in sin and wickedness, for the prayers of the wicked are not heard; they cannot pray acceptably in that state; their sacrifice is an abomina-

tion. The true and living worshippers of the only true and living God are no longer dead in sins and trespasses; they are redeemed from these by the righteousness of Christ Jesus, who came to save His people from their sins, and never in them. That we must fear God, and in thought, word, and deed give glory unto Him, before we can worship Him in spirit and in truth. For considerably more than an hour my heart was enlarged in the flowings of gospel love, as a stream bearing down every thing before it. A more attentive audience can scarcely be conceived than certain classes of this people, both natives and foreigners. The Lord's power had the dominion, and reigned pre-eminently until the breaking up of the meeting. Every class and variety of the people flocked round us, scarcely affording us an opportunity of speaking to the members of the missionary establishment. Some of the natives endeavoured to thank me through the medium of Hiram Bingham, but I requested him to refer such to the great Creator, and not to look at the creature. One said I had brought them a blessing. A number of serious-looking women came round us, whose countenances bespoke that love was in their hearts. Troops of the dear children gathered in their turn, and seemed delighted to find that they also might shake hands with the strangers: some of them would come again and again, until they found their faces were recognized. We seemed to need more hands than we possessed, as frequent attempts would fail to shake hands with those that held theirs out to us, by others

reaching forward and taking hold of ours before them, in quick succession."

On New Year's day (First month, 1st, 1836) the friendly regard of the queen and her chiefs was manifested by a present, with the following letter:

"*Honolulu, January* 1*st*, 1836.

As an expression of friendly regard of Kinau and her associate chiefs to Mr. Wheeler, the friendly visitant, they beg his acceptance of a few supplies. They are the following: five barrels of potatoes, five turkeys, five fowls, and one hog.

NA KINAU."

Finding upon inquiry that to refuse this present would create much dissatisfaction, because entirely intended as a good-will offering, the following acknowledgment was written and returned:

"Highly sensible of the kindness and hospitable intention of Kinau, the governing chief of the Sandwich Islands, and the constituted authorities of the same, I assure them of my Christian regard in the love of the everlasting gospel, which has induced me to visit these isles afar off.

I feel and value this token of good will, in their act of generosity, and I do freely accept the supplies so gratuitously furnished.

With best desires for their present and eternal welfare, and that of every age and every class over

whom they preside, I am her and their sincere friend,

DANIEL WHEELER.

'Henry Freeling,' in the harbour of Honolulu, First month, 1st, 1836.

To KINAU, the governing chief of the Sandwich Islands, etc."

Public notice having been given that a meeting for worship would be held after the manner of the Society of Friends, on the evening of the next First day, they landed to be in readiness.

The journal states: "The time no sooner arrived, than the people poured in from every direction, and soon filled nearly all the seats; some more were provided, but many had to stand at the lower part of the house, in a crowded manner. The novelty of a 'Quaker's meeting,' and the first ever held on a Sandwich Island, might induce many to come, out of curiosity, who at other times never think of attending a place of worship; and it is probable that the whole of the white residents were present, besides those who came from the shipping, and a considerable number of the natives and half-castes, with several of the highest authorities in the place; so that the house was crowded, we were informed, as it had never been before.

Sitting in silence seemed, perhaps, to nearly all that were there, quite incomprehensible. The forepart of the time was unsettled by many whispering and talking, and an individual or two, not quite

sober, were a little troublesome and annoying; but I think I have witnessed, in lands accounted civilized, a meeting, from one or other cause, quite as unsettled, though altogether free from those disadvantages under which this was labouring. Having sat a considerable time in silence, after the meeting was fully gathered, it was with me to say, that, as the disciples formerly were incapable of feeding a hungry multitude, until the great Master had blessed and broken the bread, so it is at this day. Without Him we can do nothing as it should be done; and it is only when He is pleased to qualify any of His servants to proclaim His Truth, that the people can be availingly benefited. 'Without me ye can do nothing,' was our Lord's declaration; and true it is, for without Him we can do nothing, not even think a good thought, or restrain an evil one; the spirit truly is willing, but the flesh is weak. That the Society of which I have the privilege of being a member, has always borne a faithful testimony to the excellency of waiting upon the Lord, as the all-sufficient and only great and true Teacher of His people. After recommending that we should endeavour to wait for the influence of the Holy Spirit to solemnize our minds together, I sat down. The meeting became much more settled after this had taken place, though doubtless the patience of many would be tried before the silence was again broken. When the time was come, I stood up with these expressions: 'I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son,' but in me you may behold a living monument of the

Lord's everlasting mercy; and although in my own estimation less than the least child that is alive in the truth, yet to me, even unto me, is this grace given, that I should declare unto others the unsearchable riches of Christ. I have no sinister motive in thus coming among you; the comprehensive principle of the gospel, which would gather and embrace all mankind, enables me to call every country my country, and every man my brother. It is this that has induced me to leave a delightful home, and a numerous and endeared family, and every thing beside which a mortal need possess, and more, to visit these 'isles afar off;' well knowing, that he that loseth his life for Christ's sake and His gospel, 'the same shall find it.' I have no new doctrine to preach; the way to the kingdom is the same that it ever was; the foundation is the same, 'Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner-stone;' 'for other foundation can no man lay than is laid.' But although the foundation be from everlasting to everlasting, yet if the superstructure is not raised upon it, what will it avail? It is, then, of the greatest importance for each of us seriously to examine upon what we are really building our hope of salvation; for a day of trial will come upon every man's work: the day will declare it, and the fire of the Lord will try of what sort it is, when nothing will stand and endure the trial but what is built upon the same sure, immutable foundation which the righteous in all ages and generations of the world have built

upon, even Christ Jesus the righteous, that tried corner-stone, elect of God, and precious indeed to them that believe and obey His gospel. I had largely to declare of the universality of Divine grace, that none are left short of a measure of it: it hath appeared unto all men, and its teaching, if regarded, would bring salvation to all men. That 'a manifestation of the Spirit,' which is no other than 'the Spirit of grace,' is 'given to every man to profit withal.' This precious gift was not limited to a few individual members of the Church only, but extended to all men universally: first when our Holy Redeemer had suffered without the gates of Jerusalem on Calvary's mount, 'He ascended up on high, led captivity captive, and received gifts for men'—not for an elect, chosen few only, to the exclusion of others, but 'for the rebellious also, that the Lord might dwell among them,' as by Holy Writ declared. So that every man hath 'a manifestation of the Spirit bestowed on him to profit withal,' however widely this Divine gift may be diversified in its operations, or its administrations may differ, it was obtained through the shedding of His blood, 'who died for us and rose again'—'the just for the unjust, that He might bring us unto God.' All men have an opportunity of becoming members of the mystical body of Christ, the true Church, if but willing to turn to the light of the Holy Spirit of the Lord Jesus, that shineth in every heart; 'the true light, that lighteth every man that

cometh into the world.' Although many may think themselves dwelling securely, and spending their precious time, days without number, in dissipation, folly, and utter forgetfulness of God, rejoicing as in the days of thoughtless youth, yet they will be overtaken at last, when least expecting it, in the midst of their sinful course, and brought under judgment. 'Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth; and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes; but know thou, for all these things God will bring thee into judgment.' Ask the votaries of dissipation and folly, after a dark season of sinful pleasures, or rather of wretchedness, if they have not felt horror, remorse, shame, and fear, the certain and constant attendants upon guilt, and which are nothing less than the strivings of the Holy Spirit, discovering unto them their deeds of death and darkness; and which, if attended to, would deliver them out of this miserable bondage of Satan, and lead them to the knowledge of the Holy Spirit of Him who is the life and light of men. It is true that this light would make manifest all their evil deeds; it would set their sins in order before their guilty minds, in tenderest mercy and redeeming love, that they might forsake them and repent, return unto God, and live. But, alas! how many turn away from these faithful reproofs of instruction, and join in fresh scenes of vice and wickedness, or, with large draughts of strong and poisonous drink, endeavour to smother

and drown the voice of this heavenly witness against sin. But this light will search them out at last, although but for their condemnation. To those who turn inward to it, and are willing to bring their deeds to its shining, the exceeding sinfulness of sin will be discovered. That sorrow of heart will then be begotten, which never faileth to work true and unfeigned 'repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.' It was the desire of my heart that all might be encouraged to repent, return, and live, by embracing the means so mercifully and amply provided for the salvation of all mankind, in wondrous love and compassion. So great was the solemnity that continued to be spread over us, that I had to call the attention of the people to witness it for themselves, as beyond the reach and power of man to produce. The Lord alone was exalted; His own arm brought Him the victory and the praise."

Great openness to attend religious meetings was manifested by the natives of Oahu. On one occasion, the number present was computed at upwards of four thousand.

The reigning queen, Kinau, met Daniel Wheeler by appointment at Hiram Bingham's. She was desirous of being instructed as to the best mode of government. She was commended to the principles of the gospel, as her best guide. The necessity of prohibiting altogether the use of ardent spirits was fully appreciated by her.

"Second month, 26th. To-day visited the school of half-white boys. As our calling was altogether unexpected, there could have been no contrivance whatever to show off to the best advantage. Sixteen boys were present: we heard them read, spell, and answer a variety of questions, and saw specimens of their writing. This school has been established rather more than three years, and although no great progress has been made by any of the scholars, yet when the habits in which they have been trained are considered, and the baneful examples they are daily and almost hourly exposed to when at home, of drinking, swearing, gambling, and every evil that can well be conceived or imagined, it is only surprising that they are as they are. Several of the parents are grog-sellers and keepers of gambling-houses. Some of the children are the offspring of the principal inhabitants, American or English, on the father's side, who live with native women, but unmarried. In point of intellect, these children are equal to any in the world, and some of them particularly quick and intelligent, but none more so than one true-born native boy, adopted by a white resident, from supposed motives of policy. On hearing them read some manuscript verses on 'a little boy that never told a lie,' and 'a paper against committing sin,' I perceived something gathering upon my mind, and told the master that I wished to say a few words before we separated, as we might never meet together again. I wished them fully to understand that the

knowledge they were acquiring by the instruction afforded, would be no benefit in reality, but render their condemnation greater, unless obedience kept pace with it; reviving the Saviour's words, 'If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.' That reading those verses on 'a little boy that never told a lie,' or those 'against committing sin,' even if they had them by heart, would be of no avail to them, if they gave way to telling lies, or to committing any other sin; for 'Nothing that is unclean, nothing that is impure, that worketh an abomination, or maketh a lie,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven. That the only way to escape falling into temptation, is at all times, as much as may be, to consider ourselves in the presence of Almighty God, who sees and knows all our actions, and the most secret thoughts of the heart, by his Holy Spirit, which searcheth all things, even the deep things of God; every imagination of our thoughts is known to Him; nothing can be hid. That some of them were old enough to know when they did wrong, either in telling untruths, or when in any other way they committed sin; that they then felt uncomfortable and unhappy in themselves; that these are the reproofs of the Holy Spirit for sin and disobedience, and if attended to would lead to life, and to these I wished them to take heed. That the Lord loveth an early sacrifice; He delighteth to regard it. That they must have heard what the voice of wisdom saith in the Holy Scrip-

tures: 'I love them that love me, and they that seek me early shall find me.' That they could not begin too soon to seek an acquaintance with the Lord's Holy Spirit in their hearts, that so they might become truly wise. That the great end and object of all teaching and all learning, should be to make wise unto salvation. The boys were very attentive, and behaved in a solid manner. We remained until the school was dismissed, and then returned on board."

CHAPTER VII.

HAWAII — INTRODUCTORY LETTER — EMBARKATION OF MISSIONARIES — A MARRIAGE — GENERAL MEETING OF THE MISSIONARIES — LETTER FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING — HERVEY ISLES — RORATOGNA — NATIVE MEETINGS — LETTER FROM A YOUNG NATIVE.

THEY sailed for Hawaii on the 30th of Fourth month, and anchored in Kakakahua bay, near the place where Captain Cook was killed in an affray with the natives, in 1778.

"Fifth month, 4th. We landed in the forenoon, and ascended a steep more than two miles in length, and by places almost inaccessible. The great heat of the sun, reflected from a nearly black surface of volcanic rock, smooth and glassy, was almost insupportable. The native boys and girls were very desirous to help me up the hill: some pulled me forward by the arms, and others pushing behind, contributed to lessen the fatigue: although this had a ludicrous appearance, I could not well reject their kindness. On reaching the mission-house, we were welcomed in a friendly manner by Cochran Forbes and his wife, who occupy this secluded habitation."

Religious meetings were held in various parts of this interesting island, the missionaries doing all in their power to promote the object of Daniel Whee-

ler's visit. The following is a copy of one of the many letters of introduction sent by them from one station to another:

"Copy, dated April 23d, 1836. Rev. David B. Lyman, Titus Coan.

Dear Brethren,

Allow me the pleasure of introducing to you our friends, Daniel Wheeler, a minister of the gospel, of the Society of Friends, and his son Charles Wheeler, who, on an errand of benevolence to the dwellers on the isles of the Pacific, have visited this quarter, to co-operate in the work of our Master, in turning men from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God. I have had the pleasure of interpreting repeatedly the warm, earnest, and evangelical appeals of Daniel Wheeler to our people, and presume you will feel it a pleasure to assist him in a similar way, for the furtherance of his object, and otherwise facilitating their intercourse with the chiefs and the people, and cheering their toil in a long and expensive voyage.

Affectionately your brother,

HIRAM BINGHAM.

Honolulu, Island Oahu."

His exercise at one of the meetings held in Hawaii is thus described: "After the people were requested to settle down in stillness, and endeavour to draw nigh unto the Lord with humble reverence, I was strengthened to declare amongst them the way of

life and salvation, in the word of the truth of the gospel, in the love of which my heart was greatly enlarged. Repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ, the only way to obtain forgiveness of sins that are past, and freedom from the thraldom of sin in future, were largely pointed out, and the light of the Holy Spirit of Christ Jesus, which shineth in every heart, as the only blessed medium by which this path is made manifest, by reason of the darkness which prevaileth in man, while held in a benighted, carnal, and unregenerate state, in bondage to the power of Satan, the prince of darkness. The burden which rested upon my mind was, that the people might be delivered from this power of darkness, and translated into the kingdom of the dear Son of God, through the shedding of whose precious blood our redemption is sealed, even forgiveness and remission of sins that are past, and an interest mercifully granted to us in that Holy Advocate, always present to plead with our Heavenly Father the weakness and infirmity of our nature, for the time to come, for all those who, in belief and obedience, are willing to come unto God by Him. Such, and such only, are turned 'from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God,' 'the judge of all, through the blood of Jesus Christ His Son, which cleanseth from all sin.' The meeting was not so large, we were told, as at some other times, but the people were very attentive, and bowed down under the mighty hand of Him whose power reigned over all."

Having offered to convey two missionary families in the 'Henry Freeling' on their way to the Annual Meeting, Daniel Wheeler says: "We witnessed last evening a scene, in the embarkation of the two missionary families, both affecting and highly interesting. As the moment for their leaving their habitations approached, the natives crowded into their houses to take leave of them. As the train proceeded towards the beach, the company increased to a large number, perhaps hundreds. When arrived at the edge of the cliff, there was a solemn pause, and a prayer was eventually offered up by D. B. Lyman; after which, the final separation took place. The people seemed to consider us also as their friends, about to leave them, and extended their good wishes, shaking hands very freely as we retired to the boat. Some of them assisted us to launch into the surf, and, I have no hesitation in believing, would have risked their own lives to save ours. How different the present state of things to what they were when these shores were visited by the first navigators of the Pacific; but what might the situation of the simple-hearted natives have been at this day, if only men of Christian principles had trod their soil, instead of the wicked and barbarous crews of our shipping, who have committed every possible excess and outrage, shameful and brutal, upon these helpless islanders, to the lasting disgrace and infamy of the white skin!

Soon after eight o'clock, A. M., the sea-breeze made its appearance, but, before setting in, a canoe came

paddling off in great haste to reach the vessel with a couple who were desirous of being married before the departure of the missionaries from the coast; but having neglected to obtain the permission of the principal chiefess, this could not be accomplished. There was no alternative but that of returning again to the shore, about three miles off, to obtain the needful sanction; and having been told that we should not wait for them if the wind should spring up in our favour, they paddled off again with all the speed in their power. Before the wind was strong enough to warrant the risk of getting under weigh and clearing the reef, this canoe was seen again returning to the vessel from the shore. They would gladly have been married in their canoe, but the motion was so violent that the parties could not possibly stand upright while the missionary performed the usual ceremony. They were then taken on board, and, to make it easy to both parties, were brought down into the cabin, where the rite was performed by one of the missionaries demanding answers to several important questions, and the other offered up a prayer. The captain, mate, and ourselves were witnesses of this curious exhibition, the vessel rolling about in such a manner that they were forced to hold themselves by the table and each other when they stood upon their feet; they were both so drenched by the sea that had washed into the canoe, that measures were necessary to clear the cabin floor from the quantity of water upon it, after the ceremony was concluded. I felt a degree of satisfaction at

what had transpired, and, to myself, our detention last evening was accounted for. Nothing short of a fear (let in by some on board) of losing the vessel upon the reef, would have induced a willingness to anchor for the night, to avoid the apparent danger that seemed to threaten. There was a fresh breeze about midnight, but from the quarter it blew the risk was too great to make it available, from our nearness to the reef at the time. On looking over all the circumstances of the case, there seemed a providence in it, that these poor people might be saved the temptation of violating the laws of their country by an illegal procedure, without waiting the return of the missionaries, which might be most of two months. A marriage thus consummated upon the mighty waters is not an every-day transaction, and especially, as I humbly trust it may be said, in a place of worship, which the cabin of the 'Henry Freeling' has been in many instances, as well as a place of prayer and praise, from whence the spiritual sacrifice has, we hope, at times acceptably ascended unto God through Jesus Christ, though we be as nothing in His sight, and in our own, utterly unworthy of the least of all His tender mercies."

Touching at the island of Maui, and taking on board another missionary family, they arrived on the 21st of Fifth month at Oahu, where the Annual Meeting of the missionaries was to be held. Daniel Wheeler believed he should not fully discharge his religious duty without requesting an opportunity to meet them as a collected body, and mentioned the

subject to the senior missionary. The request was immediately granted, and a time appointed. At the hour named, Hiram Bingham accompanied them to the meeting. The following is the account given by D. W. of the opportunity: "I was shown into the moderator's seat, and the company was soon gathered together. After some time in silence, it was with me simply to state, that, on leaving Honolulu a few weeks ago, I had no expectation of returning to it again; but some time afterwards I found that I should not be clear of these parts without endeavouring to see the whole of the missionary establishment in its collected capacity. At that time it seemed difficult to comprehend how it would be brought about, but I felt a willingness and resignation on my part towards its accomplishment: He that causeth His wind to blow, and the waters flow, directed our steps and brought it to pass. As it is probable (I continued) that all are present that will be on the occasion, I would suggest that we now endeavour to sink down in humble reverence of soul before 'the Judge of all the earth,' to wait for the counsel of His will; and, if graciously favoured therewith, endeavour to do it, to His praise and to His glory. The meeting then settled down in silence, and remained for a considerable time under a solemn covering, until I had to speak of the order in the church of Christ, and of the preparation of heart which every member must pass through by the operation of the Holy Spirit, before he can become a part of this glorious body, that is without spot or wrinkle; and the ne-

cessity of our individually knowing for ourselves the hope of our high and holy calling. It was afterwards with me to state, the opportunity I had had of seeing them in their different, distant, solitary, and secluded allotments, and of witnessing their patient endeavours to promote the work in which they were engaged. Having myself dwelt amongst those whose language I could not understand, I was the better able to feel for them on this account with brotherly sympathy; and I was no stranger to the many obstacles thrown in their way, and the numerous difficulties that they had to encounter; but their only refuge was Christ Jesus the Lord; if He was with them, they had nothing to fear, though 'the heathen should rage, and the people imagine a vain thing, the kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord, and against His anointed.' 'He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.' I had no desire to discourage any, but while beholding the vast importance of the work they had taken in hand, I was ready to tremble at the awful weight of the responsibility which rested upon them. It was not for me to judge whether they had been called and chosen for the work, or not. I knew that our Lord had declared: 'This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.' Their being called or not called to the work, rested with themselves. But there is a possibility for a man to have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge;

and while earnestly endeavouring to lend a hand of help to others, he may be neglecting the all-important duty of coming to the knowledge of the Lord for himself. I believed that many of them were truly and earnestly desirous to know the Lord for themselves, and I wished to encourage such to follow on to know Him, to seek Him, and not to rest contented until they found Him who said, 'Seek and ye shall find.' 'The Lord whom ye seek shall suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of Hosts. But who may abide the day of His coming, and who shall stand when He appeareth?' Nothing that is of man, or in man, that is earthly, sensual, or unclean, can stand before Him: the heart must be cleansed and purified from every thing that defileth, before it can become the temple of a holy, pure, and just God; and none is sufficient for these things but He unto whom all power in heaven and earth is given, who, the prophet declares, is 'like a refiner's fire, and like fuller's soap, and He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver.' This heart-searching process we must all pass through and witness; and by yielding in meekness and submission to the baptizing operation thereof, we shall in due time be given to know and to feel it to be the 'messenger to prepare the way of the Lord' before Him, who will not dwell in the defiled temple of an unclean heart. This ordeal all have to pass through in a greater or smaller degree, before they come to that knowledge which is 'life eternal,' even

the knowledge of 'the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom He hath sent;' who once visited the earth in a body that was prepared for Him, but who now visiteth by His Holy Spirit the heart of man; who is indeed the heavenly messenger of the covenant to all that seek Him, and delight in Him, and whose coming is sure, because the Lord hath promised. But to those who are called and chosen to speak to others in the name of the Lord, and to proclaim the glad tidings of that gospel which 'is the power of God unto salvation, to every one that believeth,' a larger portion of the 'refiner's fire' is often needful, to purge them as gold and silver, and prepare them for the great work of declaring 'the truth as it is in Jesus,' from their own blessed and sensible experience. Just in proportion as the Lord's messengers are qualified and taught of Him, when commissioned to go forth in His name, may we expect that the people will be benefited: if our eyes are not first opened, vain is the attempt to open the eyes of the blind, and turn them from darkness to light. I was largely drawn forth to speak of the vast importance of the work in which they had engaged, and to arouse them to a sense of the responsibility it involved, recommending them to take counsel of the Holy Spirit of the Lord Jesus, for the same shall judge us at the last day. I had much to express to them in great plainness of speech, under the overshadowing power of that love which maketh not afraid — reminding them of the many blessed seasons we had been permitted to witness together, on

the different islands, when the Divine presence was as a crown and diadem over those large assemblies of the people. In the course of time, that 'faith which works by love,' and the true supper of the Lord, were largely held up to their view.

When on the point of leaving the harbour of Honolulu, at Oahu, when there could be no farther communication between us and the parties concerned, a letter was received from the General Meeting of the American Mission, signed by all the members, of which the following is a copy. I have subjoined it for the perusal of my dear friends, trusting that they will not permit its contents to transpire into improper channels:

Copy, dated Honolulu, June 16th, 1836.

Daniel Wheeler,

Dear friend,

We, the missionaries of the Sandwich Islands, feel ourselves happy to have the opportunity of reciprocating the kindness and sympathy which you and our young friend, your esteemed son Charles Wheeler, have manifested to us and our families during the period of five and a half months, while you have sojourned and laboured with us. We have hailed your arrival in this country with gladness, and welcomed your visit to our stations with much pleasure. We have read your credentials from York and London with care, and have been cheered by the Christian spirit which they breathe. We have been refreshed by your interesting account of the origin and

progress of your enterprise, and by your earnest and repeated evangelical appeals to our people. You have seen with what readiness of mind we have interpreted your discourses to the people, and endeavoured to facilitate your work. And we now tender you our thanks for your kind co-operation in our work, with which you have been enabled, by the great Head of the Church, to favour us. Your design to preach 'the unsearchable riches of Christ' in the isles and on the shores of this great ocean, for an indefinite but protracted period, at such a remove from the comforts of home and all you held dear on earth, must, we are aware (for we are acquainted with the nature of the service), be attended with sacrifices, toils, and cares, in which none but the Divine arm can sustain you. But this arm Divine has thus far sustained you. For this we would unite with you in thanksgiving 'to the Father of lights, from whom cometh down every good and perfect gift;' and with you would we rejoice in the assurance that it will sustain you still. Take courage, dear friend, and go on with your good work. Do what is in your power to pour the light of the sun of righteousness upon the people which sit in darkness, upon the tribes on whom the star-light of nature nightly shines, and upon the isles over which the day-star of grace has arisen. Accompanied and aided by your own beloved son, sustained and guided by the adorable Spirit of God, may you be enabled to do much to dry the fountain of intemperance and licentiousness which threaten such desolations in every quarter of the globe, and to hasten the universal diffusion of revealed Truth.

We bid you God speed, while you proclaim to perishing men the glad tidings of salvation through a crucified and exalted Saviour; while with self-sacrifice and devotedness to Christ you labour 'to turn men from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God.' Pray for us, that we may be found faithful in this work, and that the gospel may have free course and be glorified. And now, as you are convinced that our Master calls you to leave us to prosecute the service you have to perform for Him in other isles and coasts, we bid you and your son an affectionate farewell, and part with you as with valued friends whom we hope to meet in peace, when the sacrifices, and toils, and trials of a missionary life are ended. 'The Lord bless thee and keep thee. The Lord make His face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee. The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. Not unto us, but to God be the glory.' Your affectionate friends,

(Signed)

Asa Thurston,
Hiram Bingham,
Samuel Whitney,
William Richards,
Levi Chamberlain,
Artemas Bishop,
Lorrin Andrews,
John Smith Green,
Peter J. Gulick,
Ephraim Weston Clarke,
Gerrit P. Judd,
Dwight Baldwin
Reuben Tinker,
Henry Dimond,
Sheldon Dibble,
Titus Coan,
Henry H. Hitchcock,
John S. Emerson,
David B. Lyman,
Ephraim Spalding,
Richard Armstrong,
Cochraine Forbes,
Wm. P. Alexander,
Edmund H. Rogers,
Lowel Smith,
Benj. W. Parker,
Edwin O. Hall."

Extract from a letter written about this time to a friend in England: "Time would fail me to tell of the everlasting mercy and compassion that have been extended to us-ward, in that love which hath compassed about as with a shield during our recent operations in dangerous bays and roadsteads, lying open, within a very few points of the compass, to the whole beat of the Pacific. In most of these places, we have had to land amidst a breaking surf, sometimes in our own boat, and at others in canoes, which, when managed by the natives, are by far the safer, although subject to frequent drenchings from the sea.

I brought with me from London, as recommended by a dear friend, a patent water-proof belt or life-preserver, made by Macintosh of Cheapside; but I have been ashamed to make use of it on any one occasion, and, when we have been going to land, I have uniformly left it on board the vessel. How could I now begin to doubt the loving-kindness of Him whose goodness hath followed me all my life long, and dare to distrust that never-failing arm of strength that hath been so often and eminently stretched forth for my preservation, by night and by day, by sea and land, amongst strangers and foreigners, where no man cared for my soul, — in cold and heat, — in hunger, thirst, and weariness, — amid the din of arms, the noisome pestilence, and the destruction that wasteth at noon-day! — how often, from boyhood to the present day, have I been sheltered from the rage of the angry tempest! —

and how was I supported in the iron grasp of affliction, when, week after week, tidings of family distress assailed me, without the power to lend a hand of help — the parent stock smitten and removed, and the branches withering! And after all this, shall I now, when old and grey-headed, begin to doubt the heavenly Source of help, that still strengthens me to proclaim the unsearchable riches of His love to the tribes which inhabit His possessions in these uttermost parts of the earth; when the feelings of decaying nature are lost sight of, and the inner man strengthened by the might of the Lord's glorious power and sensible presence, to my humble admiration? 'To whom shall we go,' when He only hath the words of eternal life — to whom all power in heaven and earth is given?"

From Honolulu they sailed to the Hervey Isles, again crossing the equator. Arriving at Roratogna, they landed on the 2d of the Eighth month, accompanied by Charles Pitman, the resident missionary, who had come on board to greet them.

"As we drew nigh the strand, it became densely covered with an innumerable host of children, who at once hailed us as their friends: it was with difficulty that we could pass along for them, as these delighted little naked fellows completely choked up the avenue, through a grove of bananas, which leads to the mission-house, struggling who should first get hold of our hands; and if but a finger could be laid hold of, it seemed quite to satisfy them. This banana grove was of Charles Pitman's own planting. Soon

after reaching the house, the floor was studded over with natives squatted on every side, the elders of the people coming forward to salute us, and welcome us to their island. After some consideration and inquiry had taken place, it was concluded that the people should be generally convened to-morrow morning in that district, and a meeting held at eleven o'clock, A. M. The afternoon, towards sun-down, would have been preferred on some accounts, but this would unavoidably have thrown us into the dark, and thereby rendered our return to the 'Henry Freeling' doubly hazardous. After partaking of some simple refreshment, we looked round the village of Gnatagnia, and then prepared to return to our vessel. When leaving her in the morning, we took with us an English union-jack, for the purpose of hoisting upon a lofty bamboo, or cocoa-nut tree, as a signal for Captain Keen to stand in as close to the reefs as was prudent, on seeing this flag displayed upon the shore, to save the labour of the people in the boat, and to afford us every chance of smooth water. When this flag was put up, we were told that it was the first time the English flag had been planted upon the island of Roratogna: very peaceable possession had been taken of the island on the occasion, at any rate, and one in which a most cordial reception was strongly evinced, in a degree of that love which casteth out fear from every breast, and makes every man a brother. We were favoured to get well on board, and then purchased a few fowls and vegetables of the native crew, more with a view to please,

than from a want of fresh provisions, etc. on our part."

Visiting the mission schools on this island, they found them large and flourishing. They had the Scriptures in the native tongue, from which the children were instructed. A meeting was held with the natives at the close of the school, at which upwards of two thousand were present. After the certificates of D. Wheeler were read, he says: "It was with me to turn the attention of the gazing islanders to the 'God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,' that the great object of our thus being permitted to assemble together might be fully realized and fulfilled, and the blessing which prevailed to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills might rest upon us. After this, I had largely to declare the things which belong unto their peace, and to turn them to the 'Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world,'—that they might know Him to be so indeed from blessed reality, by believing in the light of the Holy Spirit which shineth in every heart, as a light in a dark place; that, by believing in this light, and taking heed thereunto, they would be made sensible of the darkness of their own hearts, and the exceeding sinfulness of sin would be plainly set before them, until that sorrow would be begotten which worketh repentance, never to be repented of, because the salvation of the soul is its end. It was for this the Saviour died, that mankind might no longer walk in darkness, but in the light of life; that as sin hath heretofore reigned in us unto death, so now might

grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life, by Jesus Christ our Lord. It was a solemn season; the power of the Lord reigned over all, and His own works rendered living praises unto Him and the Son of His love. After the meeting broke up, some time was occupied in noticing the people, who remained in crowds about us.

Eighth month, 7th. (*First day.*) After breakfast this morning, the Bible was laid before me, according to the usual practice of giving preference to the stranger, who at once undertakes to read a chapter, and afterwards to go forward with a prayer. When I had finished reading, we remained in silence. I had a secret hope this circumstance might lead into serious consideration, at a future day, as to the practice of Friends on these occasions.

The time of the native meeting now drew nigh, at the thoughts of which my mind was greatly humbled and cast down; and yet I felt a sustaining confidence that my being here was in the right ordering; for if my own inclination could have been gratified and followed, we should have been this morning out of sight of the island altogether. Charles Pitman might have observed my sunken condition, for, previously to setting out for the meeting, he seemed desirous to ascertain whether I should speak to the people or not. I told him this was very uncertain, but, from the manner in which this thing had been brought about, which was certainly not in mine own will, it was by no means improbable but that I might have something to say to them. The house was well filled

when we reached it, and Charles Pitman at once ascended the pulpit, but I remained upon the ground-floor, as one having no part to take in the matter, and, I trust, in a state something similar to that of passive clay, willing to be any thing or nothing, to do or to suffer in secret with the suffering seed. Charles Pitman went on with the usual services, as if he had little expectation of any interference on my part, but when the second singing was concluded, the way seemed at once to open for my going to him. On my getting into the pulpit, such was my blank condition, that I told him we must proceed slowly, for I should have to look well for the stepping-stones to get along with safety. We stood some time in silence together, when my mouth was opened with our blessed Lord's declaration: 'There is joy in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons that need no repentance.' Such is the everlasting mercy and boundless love of God to His creature man, that He willeth not the death of a sinner, but rather that all should repent, forsake the evil of their ways, return unto Him, and live for ever. For this the Saviour came, not to condemn, but to save a guilty world. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners from the wrath to come; that we might have life, and that we might have it more abundantly. He purchased for poor, lost, finite man, the unspeakable gift of the Holy Spirit, by the sacrifice of Himself on the blood-stained cross, 'the just for the unjust, that He might bring us unto God,' who 'so loved the

world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.' But none can be benefited by the coming and sufferings of the Lord Jesus, without an implicit belief in Him. A mere belief in the outward fact of His coming in the flesh upon the earth, will not suffice. How many, in this our day, fall short of coming to the knowledge of the only 'true God and Jesus Christ, whom He hath sent, which is life eternal,' through an evil heart of unbelief! When the Saviour of men was personally upon the earth, and men beheld His glory, as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth, — His mighty works were few in some places, because of the unbelieving hearts of the people, and He had frequently to upbraid the doubting, unbelieving multitude, for their hardness of heart; there were also found among His own disciples those that were slow of heart to believe respecting Him. 'Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe,' was His language on one occasion, 'but blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.' Great indeed was my desire that these simple-hearted islanders might not be faithless, but believing; that joy unspeakable, and full of glory, might be theirs.

For about an hour and a half, I was drawn forth to plead with these dear people, in the love of the gospel, that they might be reconciled to God for Christ's sake, for their own souls' sake, and ours also, because of the truth as it is in Jesus. It was

indeed a glorious meeting, and ought to be commemorated with humblest gratitude and praise.

My faithful interpreter was almost overcome with the sense of the working of the Lord's Almighty power. When the spring was closed up, he spoke to me in allusion to my having said, on first going into the pulpit, that 'I should have to look well for the stepping-stones to get along with safety,' — saying, that he soon found I had got upon good ground, from the feelings he experienced; but the sentence of death was mine; and though I have truly nothing to boast of but weakness and infirmity, both of late much and evidently increased, yet how can I do less than cause the voice of the praise of my God to be heard, by faithfully testifying to that loving-kindness which is better than life: His work is honourable and glorious; His righteousness endureth for ever. I sat down in nothingness and weakness; the creature was laid in the dust, as one that owed unto his Lord far more than 'five hundred pence,' many times multiplied, and had nothing to pay with; self-convicted, and as one to whom all which had been spoken most fully applied. Although the meeting had held long before I took any part in it, and was then prolonged to an unseasonable length, the people retained their seats, as if fearful of disturbing the covering which was permitted to overshadow us; and they continued in stillness after we came down upon the floor to them; but on my remarking to Charles Pitman that the people did not seem willing

to go away, he said a few sentences to them, after which they quietly withdrew.

Upon this island we had the satisfaction to see a great increase of population: the children swarmed about its shores like bees, and I think Charles Pitman said the schools are attended by 3000 of different ages and both sexes. The houses of the natives are mostly constructed with some degree of uniformity, neatly white-washed, with roads of broken shells made up to many of them for a public road for travelling upon, and the people seem to live generally in a state of enjoyment. The fruit and vegetables usually found upon the isles of the Pacific abound, as the island is like a well-watered hot-bed. The lofty mountains in its centre obstruct the passage of the clouds, and cause an abundant supply of rain. But what conduces most to the comfort and real happiness of the people, and causes an increasing population, is the circumstance of there being no good harbour for shipping; they have, consequently, very slight intercourse with the English and American sailors, and are therefore free from that dreadful disease, the blasting influence of which is fast depopulating every other isle which our footsteps have traversed: to this truth may be added another originating in the same cause, — there is no rum-dealer upon the island; ardent spirit is a curse entailed upon most others by these scourges of the human race, either publicly or privately introduced by the shipping.

Before leaving Roratogna, I received several letters

from some of the most capable scholars in the school at Gnatagnia, which were literally translated to us; one of which I subjoin as a specimen, which will suffice for the whole, as they are nearly in the same strain. It is from Tekori, a boy of about sixteen years of age:

This is my speech to you, Daniel Wheeler — read it, that you may know great is our joy in seeing your face, and in knowing your speech of God's great kindness to you. Attend, I will relate to you the coming of God's word to us. We were heathens formerly—we did not know the living God Jehovah. At that time the devil was our God—we worshipped him, and did that which is agreeable to his will — that was our true condition formerly, Daniel Wheeler. Attend, then arrived the season in which the word of the great God came to us — even of Jehovah, and the word of God spread among us in that season — still listen — God sent his servants to us, to inform us of the true way. Then the light sprung up in the midst of us. The word spoken by Isaiah, the prophet, was then fulfilled, chap. lx. verse 1. 'Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.' Behold, the light of Jehovah came to this land, and the light of Jehovah dawned upon us. Then the word of God spread on this land. The children know the word of God. Pitman taught us unweariedly, and in this likewise behold the love of God to us. Our friend and brother, Daniel Wheeler, I think of the kindness

of God in conveying you from your land — from Britain. You have been directed by God to this land and that land — you have witnessed His loving-kindness — you have seen what has occurred in the deep — the mighty power of God. He will not forsake those who put their trust in Him. Friend, when you go to visit this land, and that land, we will pray to God, that He may safely conduct you to the land whither you wish to go, and that He may carry you safely to your own land. Friend, now go, we have met — you have seen our face in Roratogna, and we have seen your face. Observe, one thing yet remains. — When we shall be assembled with the word of God, of the blessed — in that world of joy, the good people of Britain will know those of Roratogna, and the good people of Roratogna will know those of Britain, and then will be known the true state of that land and this land. This is a little speech of compassion toward you — may you be preserved in your voyaging. — And now, may the grace of God be granted to us — even so — Amen.

From Tekori, that is all I have to say."

CHAPTER VIII.

FRIENDLY ISLES — CAVERN AT OTEA — MEETING WITH THE MISSIONARIES — INTERESTING LETTER — NEW ZEALAND — MEETING FOR WORSHIP — FAREWELL LETTER FROM THE MISSIONARIES — SIDNEY — HOBART TOWN — RETURNS TO ENGLAND.

LEAVING Roratogna, their course was directed to the Friendly Isles, distant about 1100 miles, where they arrived soon after the middle of the Eighth month. The same kind welcome was extended here by the missionaries, and the natives gladly heard the preaching of the gospel of life and salvation. They were instructed "that the Christian religion is a heartfelt work; it is in the heart we must work out our own salvation with fear and trembling, through submission and obedience to the power of the Spirit of the Lord Jesus, which dwelleth in the contrite and humble heart, without respect of persons, or of the colour of the skin." In the island of Otea they visited a splendid cavern on the coast, into which they were rowed by the natives. "The great height of the vaulted arches above our heads, which are almost of Gothic shape, from which are suspended a variety of huge spiral masses of ponderous weight, apparently ready to fall — the amazing depth and clearness of the water under us, together with the

dark and deep recesses, which could not be explored for want of a light, exhibited a sublime and magnificent spectacle, and a specimen of those great and marvellous works incomprehensible to mortal man. Fish of large size swam about beneath us, without the least appearance of being disturbed by the boat, so great was the depth of water between us and them. In knocking off some of the spiral crags within our reach to bring away with us, the echo produced was alarming, and as if the whole roof was in danger of falling upon us."

The crews of the whaling vessels frequently met with at the different islands, continued to be the objects of Christian concern with D. Wheeler, who held meetings for them, and carefully furnished the vessels with good books and tracts, and copies of the Holy Scriptures.

Before leaving the Friendly Isles, an opportunity occurred to meet with all the missionaries assembled at their General Conference. They sat down together in silence, after which D. Wheeler was drawn to address them, saying: "Before we are in a state to be entrusted with the knowledge of the Divine will, the will of the creature must be laid low, and subjected to the will of the great Creator; our bodies must become living sacrifices, holy, acceptable to God; we must be altogether transformed, and our minds renewed by the power of the Spirit of the Lord Jesus, believed in, and operating in us, 'that we may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God,' as defined by the Apostle Paul to the Romans.

Every thing depends upon this knowledge; to know the will of God, in the first place, and then to do it. 'To obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.' It is those only who do the will of the Father, that shall know of the doctrine of 'His well-beloved Son, in whom He is well pleased.'

The whole of our Lord's precepts must be regarded as binding upon His followers; we cannot choose for ourselves, by selecting some parts and leaving others. His example must be followed in every thing, in every part, to the denial of self in all things. 'He that will be my disciple must deny himself, take up his daily cross, and follow me,' are the terms which He prescribes; we must take up a daily cross to our own corrupt wills and inclinations. It seldom occurs that the path chosen for us, or the thing required of us, is what we, as creatures, should choose for ourselves, or can very readily yield obedience to; it is against the nature of flesh and blood, it does not suit our inclination: if it were not so, and our will was consulted, there would be no cross to take up; it would be a sacrifice which cost us nothing. We must be willing to part with, and to suffer the loss of all things for Christ's sake; and, in following the great example which He hath left us, we must in no part thereof deny Him before men, nor be ashamed of Him and His words before men, lest He should also deny us, and be ashamed of us, before His Father and the holy angels, according to His own awful denunciation against such unworthy followers.

It was with me to urge the necessity of their

being concerned above all things to know the will, and do the will, of our Heavenly Father, both male and female, for both are one in Christ, that so all might, by implicit obedience, know for themselves the will of God, to be unto them wisdom and righteousness, sanctification and redemption by the blood of Jesus."

The following letter was subsequently received:

"*Lifuka, Harbai, October* 17*th*, 1836.

Dear Friend,

We, as Wesleyan Methodist missionaries, labouring in the Friendly Islands, beg leave at this, our annual meeting, to express our sentiments to you in reference to your visiting the various mission-stations in these seas.

We admire the principle which induced you to sacrifice the blessings of civilized society, and quit the land of your fathers, in order to witness the glorious effects of the gospel among heathen nations, and preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.

We doubt not but you have been richly rewarded in your own mind for all the sacrifices you have made, and the privations you have been called to endure, while prosecuting the great work in which you are engaged. We rejoice that the Lord has so signally blessed you hitherto in your undertaking, and pray that His kind Providence may still preside over you, and make your way plain.

We have been very much gratified by your visit

to this part of the great mission field. We hail you as a fellow-labourer in the gospel, and wish you God's speed.

The very great kindness which you and your excellent son have manifested to us in a variety of instances, has produced a deep impression on our minds: be assured you will long live in our affection, and we hope that your addresses and conversation will produce their desired effect.

And now, as you are about to take your departure from this place, we commend you to God, and take an affectionate farewell, until we shall meet in our Father's house above. We remain, dear friend,

Yours, affectionately,

JOHN THOMAS, WILLIAM ALLEN BROOKS,
JOHN HOFFS, STEPHEN RAYBONE,
JAMES WATKIN, JOHN SPINNEY."
CHARLES TUCKER,

On the 10th of the Eleventh month, 1836, they left the Friendly Isles, and after a passage of two weeks, reached the Bay of Islands, in New Zealand. The cause of religion appeared to be in a very discouraging state in this large and interesting island. A number of the tribes were at war with each other; and the intercourse with foreigners was fearfully destructive, in a moral sense. Still, the missionaries had preserved some small settlements, where schools and congregations were gathered. At one of these a meeting was held, where D. Wheeler says: "I reminded the people that we were in the presence of Him without whose knowledge a sparrow cannot fall

to the ground; but, though heaven is His throne, and the earth His footstool, yet to this man will He look, even unto him that is poor, and of a contrite spirit, and who trembleth at the word of His power. I had then largely to testify of the love of God, as it is in Christ Jesus, and to turn the attention of the people to the light of this unspeakable Gift, which shineth in every heart, who, once in a body of flesh, spoke to man upon the earth, but now speaketh from heaven, by the Holy Spirit, and to all that believe in it, and obey it, it is the power of God unto salvation. The countenances of some of these dear people spoke louder than words, that they had fallen upon the stone of Israel—their brokenness could not be hid; to such, the message of everlasting love flowed freely, and, I humbly trust, was as a shower upon the thirsty soil. It was an open and relieving season. It was the Lord's doing, and, I believe, marvellous in the eyes of some present."

On another occasion, one of the missionaries endeavouring to persuade some of the chiefs to attend, told them that D. Wheeler had visited the islands of the South Seas with the glad tidings of the gospel. One of the chiefs immediately asked whether the people of those islands had listened. The number who finally came was small, "but the love of the gospel flowed towards them, as numbered among those for whom the Saviour died, and rose again, that they might live. The truths of the gospel were sounded among them; they were invited to accept the terms of salvation, then proclaimed: 'Believe on

the Lord Jesus Christ, and be saved.' They were directed to turn inward to the true light, 'that lighteth every man that cometh into the world;' for this light is Christ, the light of the world, and the Saviour of the world, who, by His Holy Spirit, shineth in every heart. In this light they must be willing to believe, which would not only show them their sins, but if these were forsaken and repented of, would save them from their sins. With more words they were exhorted and entreated to repent, believe, and obey. The people were very attentive and solid: may the Lord soften their hearts, and incline them to ponder the things which they heard spoken!"

A closing meeting was held with the missionaries, in which D. Wheeler says: "I was engaged to turn the minds of all present to the teaching of the Holy Spirit of the Lord Jesus, which would lead them safely along through time, and sustain them in a boundless eternity." In a letter received from the missionaries before his departure, is the following:

"One effect of your visit to New Zealand has been to remind us, that though 'there are differences of administrations, it is the same spirit' which actuates the whole of Christ's mystical body, 'the Church of the first-born, whose names are written in heaven.' With gratitude, also, we have to acknowledge your liberal bestowment of school-books, tracts, clothing for natives, medicines, etc. which will remain behind you as a memorial of your Christian kindness.

The pleasure of our meeting together is, alas! now embittered by the painfulness of separation; but our

high calling entitles us to the privilege of a friendship which is not interrupted by distance or time. We cannot, however, at your advanced age, and the immense distance which will ere long separate between us, but be solemnly reminded of the affecting words of the venerable apostle to the elders of Ephesus: 'And now I know that ye all among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more.'

It is our earnest prayer to God for you, that, if consistent with His will, you may be spared to return to our beloved native land, and to the bosom of your family, to tell all your eyes have seen of 'what God hath wrought among the Gentiles by the ministry of reconciliation.'"

On the 17th of First month, 1837, they left New Zealand, and directed their course for Sidney, in New South Wales. At this port they arrived on the 30th. They were rejoiced to meet here their dear friends James Backhouse and George Washington Walker, and to receive accounts from the beloved family at Shoosharry, from whom they had not heard for nearly two years. Still later intelligence, however, brought the affecting account of the death of D. Wheeler's eldest son, William, whose end was eminently crowned with peace, and an humble and confiding trust in redeeming mercy. At Hobart Town, a few weeks after, came also an additional sorrow — the account of the death of his youngest daughter, but with it the consolation that, through Divine mercy, her end was truly peaceful.

His anchor in these waves of affliction was on the rock Christ Jesus. His prayer was: "May the Lord Most High be graciously pleased in like manner to prepare us also for the heavenly kingdom."

Agreeably to arrangements made on leaving England, the 'Henry Freeling' was sold at Sidney, and the ship's company discharged. After a voyage of twelve days, Daniel Wheeler and his son reached Hobart Town, where they embarked on board the 'Lloyd's,' bound for London, on the 9th of Twelfth month, 1837, and reached that port on the 1st of Fifth month, 1838.

The following are the closing extracts in his journal: "I should not be satisfied to conclude this unconnected and imperfect narrative, without saying how greatly I have been aided in the course of this religious engagement by the missionaries from different societies in Europe and North America, who very kindly acted as interpreters on my behalf to the native congregations upon the islands where my lot was cast, and opened their meeting-houses for our accommodation in the most brotherly manner; to whom, for this assistance and Christian kindness many ways exhibited, we feel gratefully and highly indebted.

I may also be allowed to add, at the same time, that, having been encouraged by my dear friends at home to accept the company of my son, Charles Wheeler, I have found him very useful and strengthening to me, during our long sojourn in foreign parts, in a variety of instances, and on many important occasions.

For the best welfare of the dear and interesting people who inhabit those isles afar off, which, in the love of the gospel, I have thus been drawn forth and enabled to visit, a petition, however feeble, must ever dwell in my heart; and I would earnestly and affectionately crave the fervent aspirations of all my dear brethren and sisters, when it is well with them, on their behalf; while they unite with me in commemorating the mercy, loving-kindness, and faithfulness of Him who, for His great name's sake, and for His beloved Son's sake, wrought the work; hath so marvellously sustained us through every season of trial and conflict, and delivered us out of every distress, that the thanksgiving of many may resound to His praise, to whom the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, belong for ever."

THE END.

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